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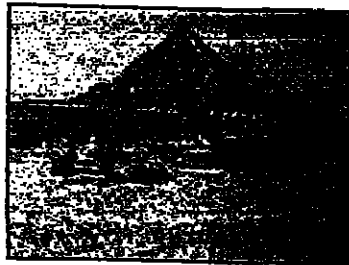
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NIS 4.50 (EILAT NIS 3.85)



13 Travel

A sojourn in Sinal



14 Flair

Hang loose



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Pioline reaches semis

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## PM: Knesset will OK second withdrawal

By LIAT COLLINS and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The second redeployment will be approved by the Knesset, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly told Likud ministers yesterday, but he did not say when the agreement would be reached. He repeated that the negotiations are completely unrelated to coalition considerations.

US Ambassador Edward Walker, meanwhile, said after a meeting with Labor Party leader Ehud

Barak that the US will make a decision on the future of its initiative in the next few days, whether there is an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians or not.

Walker said the US has not given Israel a deadline to accept its proposal for a 13 percent pull-back, but noted "there is a very short time frame."

"It's a matter of days, not weeks," he said. "It depends on how the progress goes."

In Washington, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said:

"We will continue talks as long as they are constructive. But I am the first one that is going to declare that they are not when I will feel that way. I will make that determination at the time... but soon, this is not something that is going to go on much longer."

MKs Efraim Sneh and Shlomo Ben-Ami, Barak adviser Alon Lial, and his bureau chief Oren Shohor also attended the Walker-Barak meeting.

Barak stated Labor would not block any positive move the gov-

ernment takes toward peace. But asked whether Labor would support Netanyahu in the Knesset on the pullback proposal, Barak said: "I don't deal with speculation. It's an egg which hasn't been hatched yet. As soon as there is some cabinet decision, we'll make our position known."

"We're for the peace process, but we have no faith in the government. The Netanyahu government is incapable of reaching peace with Syria and the Palestinians."

Barak told Walker he rejected any American pressure on Israel. However, he said, "if the peace process reaches a cul-de-sac, it's your duty to declare that and tell the public what happened. Only a clear picture will enable opening a new chapter in marching toward peace."

Barak urged the US via Walker to increase its political and intelligence efforts to foil the "nuclear domino" approaching from India and Pakistan and to stop the nuclear technology "spill" into Iran and Iraq.

Sneh lashed out at Netanyahu's efforts to muster right-wing US congressmen to pressure President Bill Clinton, using Israel's so-called security interests as an excuse.

"We denounce any subversiveness against the US president under the pretext of protecting Israel's security. The president is a true, proven friend of Israel's," Sneh reportedly told Walker.

He cautioned that if the US abandons its role in advancing the peace process "it would be a regrettable mistake. The latest cri-

sis with Iraq proved that when the peace process is dying, the US is unable to protect its vital interests."

In the Knesset plenum, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai repeated his statement that it is time for a decision on the second redeployment. He said that the stalemate in the process could lead to violence and called on the Palestinians to abide by their commitments.

See WITHDRAWAL, Page 2

### AGENDA

## Tomorrow is another day

As the Third Way MKs left Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Tuesday with a decision to abstain themselves from the no-confidence vote in the Knesset, MK Alex Lubotzky commented to one of his friends: "He has managed to render us impotent on this issue as well."

Lubotzky was referring to the Likud faction's decision to abstain itself from the vote as a protest against the number of no-confidence motions submitted by the opposition.

"In the end, we'll have no alternative but to leave the coalition. Just remember, we can leave the government without bringing it down," he said to his colleague.

Lubotzky should be the person in his party ideologically closest to Netanyahu. Like Netanyahu, he grew up in a Revisionist household and, like him, he believes in a Greater Israel. The political differences between them focus mainly on the question of what to give up. If, in the final outcome, Netanyahu has no alternative and is forced to implement a 13 percent redeployment, he will prefer to give the Palestinians the empty areas of the Judean Desert instead of isolating Jewish settlements in densely populated Palestinian areas between Nablus and Jenin, so as not to incur the wrath of the settlers and the National Religious Party.

See AGENDA, Page 6



100 dead in German train crash

Rescue workers search for survivors yesterday after a high-speed train crashed in Eschede, Germany. See story, page 7. (AP)

## Israelis, Syrians hold unexpected talks in Houston

Both sides deny negotiations took place

By HILLEL KUTTLER, JAY BUSHINSKY, and news agencies

Israeli and Syrian representatives met unexpectedly this week in Houston, Texas, for the first time in more than two years, officials said yesterday.

All sides played down the significance of the meeting, although radio and television reports said that the possibility of resuming peace talks stalled since February, 1996 was explored during the three-day session.

According to Channel 1, the cover for the talks was a seminar at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. Among the participants were Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's former ambassador to Washington, and Walid Muallem, who still serves as Syrian ambassador. The two served as their countries' top negotiators during most of the period from 1993-1996.

Uzi Arad, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's top adviser, addressed the conference on Tuesday morning.

In Jerusalem, a senior government official played down the significance of the conference in Texas and the participation of Arad.

"There were no contacts, open or secret, between the Israeli and Syrian officials present," he said.

"Uzi was invited to attend two months ago and was not sure until the last minute if he could spare the time," the official said. "It was a

public gathering which was advertised in the local Texan press and not a vehicle for clandestine or confidential diplomatic contacts."

Asked about the presence of Itamar Rabinovich, the official said he attended as an academic, not as an official emissary or negotiator.

Arad evidently was not authorized by Netanyahu to make any new proposals to the Syrians who attended or to seek clarifications or updates of Damascus' stance in the long-paralyzed negotiating process.

A State Department official told Israel Television that Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk "laughed when I told him you called (and) said it was an off-the-record academic discussion in which the positions of all sides were presented and analyzed."

"He thought it was funny that Israel TV thought it was serious negotiations. It was not secret negotiations. It was not meant to be secret negotiations. It would not have been secret if it were in Houston with 50 people in the room."

There was "no direct contact" between Israeli and Syrian officials, the official added.

Muallem said in Washington: "There was never any meeting. There wasn't even a handshake. I just gave a lecture in which I spoke about the necessity of resuming the talks from where we left off."

Channel 1 said Baker and Indyk were both present at the meetings. Indyk's speech centered on the American view that reinvigorating

the Israeli-Syrian track is important, "but that we consider it vital first and foremost to put the Israeli-Palestinian process back on track, and after that we'd move swiftly to the Israeli-Syrian track—that we do sort of order it in that way," the official said.

Reached in Houston yesterday, shortly after the conference ended, Baker Institute director Edward Djerejian called the television report "not true."

"I want to make clear that these discussions did not constitute negotiations between the parties," said Djerejian, who served as ambassador to Israel and Syria.

Djerejian said, however, that he and Baker decided to organize the event because the negotiations are "not progressing at all."

The conference attracted top Israeli, European, and American academics and diplomats and sought to analyze the stalled process and discuss options "for moving things forward," Djerejian said. US Ambassador to Syria Ryan Crocker also attended.

"I do believe the talks were helpful in clarifying some issues... and I do think it did serve a useful purpose as a forum for ideas and bringing people together," Djerejian said.

In remarks to the Associated Press, Djerejian added that the talks afforded "an opportunity for experts to look at the past, look where we are now, and explore options to move this Israeli-Syrian track forward."

## Israeli Arab leaders mull boycott of settler products

By DAVID RUDGE

Israeli Arab leaders are considering calling for a boycott of all products from Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A recommendation to this effect is to be discussed at today's meeting in Shfaram of the Arab leadership's monitoring committee, which is composed of MKs, council heads, and leading public figures.

Abed Inbitawi, the spokesman for the forum, said that the proposal followed a similar decision by the European Union.

He revealed that a list already

was being drawn up of the various items produced in the settlements and said that if the proposal was approved the list would be distributed to all Israeli Arab retailers.

He maintained that the measure is being considered to balance the moves of those he described as opposed to the continuation of the peace process, in particular to the planned redeployment in the West Bank.

Inbitawi said it was almost certain that the recommendation would be adopted and the boycott implemented.

"The European Union declared something similar, but it is not as close to or involved in the situation as we are, and our interest in the rights of the Palestinians is certainly no less than that of the EU," he said.

"Therefore we are also considering adopting the same measure of boycotting products of the settlements in the occupied territories. We see the settlements as an obstacle to peace and certainly as

something which is delaying the process. They also cause economic and moral harm to Israeli society, of which we are a part, especially in view of the huge funds from the state budget that go to the settlements."

Inbitawi said Israeli Arab retailers also purchased goods from the territories without any differentiation and shops are full of products ranging from wine and hummus to manufactured items.

The monitoring committee also is slated to discuss other pressing issues, including the dire financial straits of local councils.

Other matters on the agenda include the demolition of illegal homes, the municipal jurisdiction of councils, long-term development plans, unemployment, the state of education in the Arab sector, and growing violence in Arab communities.

Representatives of the monitoring group are due to discuss some of these issues with Interior Minister Eli Shussan at a meeting later this month.

## In a move that could cancel Neeman Committee recommendations: State expected to push conversion bill forward

By HAIM SHAPIRO and Jerusalem Post Staff

The government intends to tell the High Court of Justice today, in response to the Conservative Movement's petition for recognition of its conversions of adopted children in 1995, that it will go ahead with the conversion bill, sources said last night.

The conversion bill, which would give the Chief Rabbinate authority to rule on the validity of all conversions to Judaism in Israel, will be altered, however, to include the Neeman Committee's proposals for a joint conversion institute, the sources said.

The committee recommended that the Conservative, Reform, and Orthodox be represented at the institute, but conversions would be performed by rabbis from the Chief Rabbinate.

The Knesset Law Committee will convene in a few days to prepare the conversion bill for second

and third readings. Israel Radio reported last night.

The government decided to move the bill forward because the Conservative movement neither accepted the Neeman Committee's recommendations nor withdrew its High Court petition on conversions, the radio reported.

The court had ordered the state to present by today its response to the Conservative movement and Na'amat's petition for the recognition of the conversions of 12 adopted children whom a Conservative Rabbinical Court converted at Kibbutz Hanaton in February 1995.

The petition was originally submitted three years ago, but was suspended after the establishment of the Neeman Committee, which sought a consensual solution to the question of non-Orthodox conversions.

Today's response by the state formally puts an end to the suspension of legal proceedings initi-

ated a few years ago by the Reform and Conservative movements in their efforts to gain state recognition of their right to conduct conversions. It comes after the failure of the Neeman Committee to find a solution to the dispute.

The Conservative and Reform representatives on the committee said they would not accept its recommendations unless they were also accepted in full by the Chief Rabbinate. The Chief Rabbinate has refused to do so.

A government source said that bringing up the conversion bill again "would in effect cancel out the Neeman Committee" recommendations.

"It is too bad that, despite the recommendations of the Neeman Committee, there are still attempts to torpedo the work of the committee by appeals to the High Court and legislation in the Knesset," Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said in a statement last night.

The statement, as quoted by Sharansky's spokesman Eli Kashdan, added that "Yisrael Ba'aliya won't support any legislation on the issue other than that which would effectively turn the Neeman Committee's recommendations into law."

The government decided to move forward the conversion bill after a meeting among Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, MK Aryeh Deri (Shas), and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman.

Neeman originally had pressed to have his committee's proposals turned into law.

The religious parties would not accept this and argued that by continuing with their court petitions the Reform and Conservative movements had abrogated the grounds for compromise.

See CONVERSION, Page 2



## NEWS

in brief

## Annan urges Norway to stay in UNIFIL

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked Norway to drop suggestions that it may pull peacekeeping troops out of UNIFIL, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

"We received a letter [from Annan] stressing the importance of UNIFIL," spokesman Ingvard Havnen said. "The Norwegian cabinet will consider this question in the near future and the secretary-general's opinion will be given due weight."

Norway has about 630 troops and officers in UNIFIL. Reuters

## Hizbullah told not to fire from inside villages

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group yesterday expressed concern at the increased number of incidents of Hizbullah firing from inside villages north of the zone. The IDF Spokesman, in a statement issued at the conclusion of the group's meeting to discuss complaints from Israel and Lebanon, said the committee had found that Lebanon breached the understandings in the incident last week in which gunmen fired from Barasheet and Hadatha villages, north of the zone. The group urged all the sides involved in the fighting in south Lebanon to ensure that their activities were conducted in accordance with the understandings. David Rudge

## Security forces raid Palestinian village

Some 500 Israeli security forces yesterday raided Kafir Shuweika, near Tulkarm, and arrested 33 Palestinians believed to be involved in stealing cars from Israel and stripping them to sell the parts, said Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan.

Palestinian sources said 50 people from the village were arrested during the raid and added that Palestinian policemen in the village were informed by their Israeli counterparts minutes before the operation took place.

Police found 22 new cars, some hidden by bales of straw. Margot Dukkevitch and Mohammed Najib

## Beit Jann workers end strike

Employees of the Beit Jann local council ended their strike yesterday after the Interior Ministry promised to transfer funds that would enable payment of their salaries, which they have not received for over three months. The ministry spokesman said the accord was reached after the local council agreed to sign a recovery program aimed at reducing expenditure by cutting costs, including the number of workers.

Local Council head Yusef Kabalan, however, said the recovery program had already been accepted by the workers and submitted to the ministry, which had itself reneged on the agreement. David Rudge

## Likud to support Doron Rubin for TA mayor

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday decided the Likud will support Brig-Gen (res) Doron Rubin for Tel Aviv mayor. Rubin, who met Netanyahu yesterday, will run as an independent candidate and include non-partisan figures, as well as Likud members, in his list. The Likud's Tel Aviv branch head, Eitan Sulami, who until now considered himself the party's mayoral candidate, agreed to be No. 2 on Rubin's list. Michal Yudelman

## Mordechai: Barring Yassin is under discussion

The defense establishment is holding serious discussions as to whether to bar Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin from returning to Gaza, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai confirmed yesterday. Yassin currently is touring Arab and Islamic states and raising funds for Hamas. Itim

## Shahak postpones trip to India

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak postponed a visit to New Delhi to avoid appearances that Israel is siding with India against Pakistan, an Israeli official said yesterday.

Shahak had planned to visit India this week. However, after India carried out its nuclear tests, the Indian government was informed that Shahak would like to postpone the visit, said an Israeli official. AP

## Gov't: Rajoub approves of terrorism

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

Recent remarks by West Bank Palestinian Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub indicate that the Palestinian Authority openly approves of terrorist attacks by Hamas against Israel if they do not implicate the PA, according to a Government Press Office release yesterday.

Rajoub, interviewed on the al-Jazeera television station on May 27 this year was quoted in the release as saying: "We view the Hamas as part of the national and Islamic liberation movement... Outside the 3 per cent [of the West Bank under complete Palestinian control] they can do as they wish... They can go to Jordan to carry out armed operations and they can also carry out such operations from Syria... At the top of my priorities is the (Israeli) occupation and not Hamas."

David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy and communications adviser, said yesterday that Rajoub's statement remarks suggest that "the Hamas can continue operating against Israel with impunity as far as the PA is concerned."

Bar-Ilan said that while the government has always main-

tained the existence of a PA-Hamas agreement despite PA denials, Rajoub's statements "point to its existence and the lack of censure by the PA."

Meanwhile, Mohammed Dahlan, the Preventive Security Chief in Gaza, said that Rajoub's remarks showed how much the plight of Palestinians has worsened.

"I know that it is hard when the Palestinians speak this way," he said. "The entire nation today speaks against the peace. There is no progress. Nothing. They are always looking at the television seeing Mr. Netanyahu talking against them, [saying] 'It's our land - it's our houses.' All of these things strengthen Hamas."

Rajoub was interviewed by Dr. Aaron Lerner of the Independent Media Review and Analysis. Dahlan said that, according to his information, Hamas is not planning any attacks but stressed the lack of security cooperation with Israel.

He said that security ties lacked the regular contact inherent in negotiations. "If we fear that there will be an attack or that someone is planning an attack, we will open channels with our friends in Israel and tell them and also the Americans," he said.

## Aide: Arafat severely depressed

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has "sunk into a black cloud of depression and lost hope," according to one of his closest aides, who says he is now "barely functioning."

The aide, who was not named by the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*, denied that Arafat, 69, is suffering from

Parkinson's disease, causing his hands and lips to tremble, but said he might be suffering from a severe nervous disorder, noting: "It's a combination of age and deep depression."

But while his memory is failing and he is no longer as sharp as he once was, Arafat retains a tight grip on the finances of both the Palestinian Authority and the PLO.

The aide described him, with sadness, as being "over the hill, but unwilling to admit it." He is surrounded, says the aide, "by people who even hide from him important facts."

Arafat is no longer a workaholic, going to bed at midnight at the insistence of his doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, and he has slowed down his once-frenetic pace. He does not consult with his close

aides as he once did and often seems to be in a bad mood.

Arafat, according to the newsletter, which will be published today, has also cooled to the idea of being succeeded by his deputy, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), who spent most of his life abroad. He is now said to favor a Palestinian who stayed on in the territories serving as a leader of Fatah.

## PA lobbies for summit

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB, and news agencies

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Oman yesterday as part of his continued lobbying efforts to convene an Arab summit.

US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Pickering, touring Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan, said the US has asked the Arab states to delay convening the summit until the US presents its peace process initiative.

Pickering said the US proposal would be announced soon and told reporters that "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has been deeply and personally engaged, and we believe her judgments must be heard and respected by the region."

Talking to reporters on arrival at the airport, Arafat accused Israel of not wanting to implement agreements reached with the Palestinians and said he views the agreements as international and not bilateral agreements.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials declared that Arafat is disappointed that a date and venue for the summit have not yet been set, but stressed that the summit will take place.

PA Minister of Higher Education Hanan Ashrawi charged that the purpose of the US request is to delay the Arab summit and minimize extremist positions against Israel.

The aim of the summit, she said, is to form a united Arab stand that will face Israel's intransigence, and prepare a comprehensive Arabic strategy on the Jerusalem issue.

Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rudeineh said that the summit will be held whether Israel accepts the US proposal or not. Abu Rudeineh indicated that so far the US has been unsuccessful in obtaining results and therefore the situation only confirms the necessity for a summit.

"We are waiting for the next few days to see if US will present its initiative, and if Israel refuses, the Arab summit will be an urgent necessity," he said.

Arafat aide Dr. Ahmed Tibi refused to comment on the meeting held yesterday in London between Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei, Arafat's deputy Mahmoud Abbas, and US envoy Dennis Ross.

Regarding the US request to delay convening the summit, he said that "the US is saying that it needs some days to decide, and continues its efforts to rescue the accord. We will wait some days until the US implements its promise and presents its initiative officially and publicly."

"The US hasn't the right to prevent an Arab summit, and there are some communications going on between the Arab leaders on this issue."

Responding to rumors that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pushing for a second West Bank withdrawal of 13 percent and a third withdrawal of 2%, Tibi said: "This is negotiations between Netanyahu and the settlers, not between him and the PA. The third phase is the most important in the interim accord, and it must reach 90% of the entire West Bank; the 2% proposal is funny."

## CONVERSION

Continued from Page 1

In a last minute bid to diffuse the situation, Rabbi Haim Druckman visited the home of one of the adopted children converted by the Orthodox conversion late Tuesday night. He had hoped to convince the child to undergo another conversion in an Orthodox ceremony.

The visit marks an attempt to further whittle away the petitioners in the case. Of the 12 families originally involved, 10 have agreed to an Orthodox reconversion and dropped out of the petition.

## WITHDRAWAL

Continued from Page 1

Mordechai was answering motions by Moleket leader Rehavim Ze'evi and MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) who said the Palestinians are arming themselves and preparing for a violent



## EU-Mediterranean meeting opens

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook (right) yesterday addresses the opening of a 15-member European Union and Mediterranean nation meeting. At his left is Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, the co-chairman. (Reuters)

## Soldiers shoot 13-year-old Palestinian

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

IDF soldiers shot and wounded a 13-year-old Palestinian yesterday afternoon as he attempted to break through the security fence at the Gush Katif settlement of Bnei Atzmona.

The IDF Spokesman said soldiers noticed a group of Palestinians attempting to break through a fence separating Khan Yunis and Gush Katif settlements. The IDF troops called out to the Palestinians to stop, and when their command was ignored opened fire at the group's legs.

One of the Palestinians sustained moderate injuries from a gunshot wound in his leg, the spokesman said, adding that he was treated by the IDF before being transferred to the hospital. The rest of the Palestinians in the

group fled.

According to Palestinian sources, Akram Khalil Irmama suffered from a gunshot wound in the leg and was transferred to the Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis.

Hospital director Dr. Heider Qedra said that Irmama suffered a thigh injury and had undergone surgery.

Palestinian military liaison official, Lieut.-Col. Khaled Abr Ella, condemned the incident and asked the IDF to take the necessary measures to avoid such incidents.

In an unrelated incident, IDF forces arrested a Palestinian policeman in civilian clothes at a roadblock near Khan Yunis on Tuesday night.

According to reports, the IDF refused to release him, despite efforts by the District Coordinating Office.

## Afghan relief back on track

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A last-minute compromise worked out by Brig.-Gen. Shimon Shapira, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's military aide, cleared the way for Israel's emergency humanitarian aid to the survivors of Afghanistan's latest earthquake to be airborne by Sunday.

The humanitarian initiative bogged down when the Defense Ministry refused to cover the cost of flying the blankets, tents, and medicines collected by the Foreign Ministry to Tajikistan for relay by helicopter to northeastern Afghanistan.

A decision had been reached earlier for the supplies, whose value was estimated at \$150,000,

to be airlifted aboard a commercial plane rather than by military aircraft. This choice was based on a cost analysis which revealed that use of an IAF Hercules transport or Boeing 707 would be more expensive.

Netanyahu instructed the two ministries to split the cost between them at \$30,000 each. At first, the Defense Ministry declined, but the deal was clinched when Shapira stressed that further delay would undermine the international good will Israel could reap in Central Asia.

The projected departure Sunday was attributed to the time required for the charter arrangements to be completed, the subsequent flight here from its base abroad, and the need to load it.

attorney, Hilla Keren.

Druckman was unavailable for comment yesterday.

The family of the other remaining child is presently in the US, a fact which the state is likely to bring up in its response. Keren insisted that the family members are Israeli citizens and the fact that they are presently abroad does not take away their right to present their petition or to have their child registered as a Jew.

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, the head of the Conservative movement in Israel, said that the families are free to act as they see fit, but he branded Druckman's visit to the home as "unbelievable."

Druckman, a former MK who heads a committee set up to deal with the problem of conversion of adopted children that was formed following the High Court petition, arrived unannounced at the home of the child, who is now nine.

Previously, he had suggested the Orthodox conversion to the mother, who said she had discussed it with her son, but reported that he had refused to undergo the ceremony. By chance, on Tuesday night, the child was sleeping over at a friend's house, so he was unavailable. The parents refused Druckman's demands that they bring the child home so Druckman could speak to him and called their

## Ports and Railways Authority Head Office

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED PURCHASES

1) The Ports and Railways Authority - Israel (P.R.A.) wishes to obtain quotations for the supply of the following equipment:

No.	Tender	Description	Qty	Opt. Qty	Cost NIS*	Submission Date
1.1	7405/019	Industrial Towing Tractor	2	2	234	13.7.98
1.2	7411/010	1.3-1.4 m <sup>3</sup> Wheel Loader	3	3	1170	13.7.98

\* Including 17% VAT.

2) Expected delivery: As soon as possible.

3) Preliminary Conditions:

- Bidders must prove that the proposed equipment is manufactured continuously during the last 5 years.
- Bidders must be approved for ISO 9001/2 (or equivalent) standard, or is in the process of being qualified.
- Bidders must meet the requirements of items marked "F" in section B of the specifications.

4) Bidders must undertake to have an authorized maintenance service station in Israel and capability of supply of spare parts.

5) The P.R.A. reserves the right to conduct negotiations with any or all of the selected bidders. Further, the P.R.A. is not obligated to purchase the lowest priced equipment which might be offered by any potential bidder. The P.R.A. reserves the right to try and test the proposed equipment in its ports prior to a decision of its purchase.

6) Tender documents including technical specifications are available upon payment as stated in para. 1 above (not refundable). All documents and proposals should be submitted in English.

7) The last date to submit the proposals is as stated in para. 1, at 15:00 hours.

8) The address for the purchase of the Tender Documentation and for submitting the proposals is:

Ports and Railways Authority - Israel  
Purchasing Division  
74 Petach Tikva Road  
11th Floor, Room 1103  
Tel Aviv, Israel 67215  
Fax: 972-3-561-6027

To Rabbi Yehuda Henkin and Rabbanit Chana  
Deepest sympathy on the death of your father

**Dr. A. HILLEL HENKIN** 57

Son of Rabbi Yosef Eliahu  
A good friend of Nishmat

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, leaving at 2:30 p.m. from the funeral parlor at Givat Shaul. Shiva at the home of the deceased, 3 Rehov Eliezer Halevi, Kiryat Moshe, Jerusalem.

The Staff and Students  
of NISHMAT

## WITHDRAWAL

Continued from Page 1

Mordechai was answering motions by Moleket leader Rehavim Ze'evi and MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) who said the Palestinians are arming themselves and preparing for a violent

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### People of the book

Mayor Ehud Olmert and former prime minister Shimon Peres survey the offerings yesterday at the launch of Hebrew Book Week in Safra Square. Booksellers are hoping for big crowds at stalls throughout the country. The opening coincided with a report by Itim that only 20% of Israelis use public libraries and that a drop-off in reading books is continuing due to competition from television, video games and the Internet.

(AP)

## State argues against trying 'Achille Lauro' hijacker

By DAN IZENBERG

The state yesterday told the High Court of Justice it does not want to arrest and try Mohammed Abbas, the mastermind of the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking because the government signed a treaty and the Knesset passed a law pledging not to try terrorists for crimes committed before the signing of the Oslo Accord in September 1993.

The pledge was part of mutual confidence building measures agreed to by Israel and the Palestinian leadership in 1995.

The government's position was elaborated in an official response to a petition by Likud activist Ron Torossian, American Rabbi Avi Weiss, and New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind to arrest and try Abbas for the murder of Leon Klinghoffer, the wheelchair-bound passenger who was thrown overboard during the hijacking.

The state also argued that it had reached the conclusion, based on "classified information in the

hands of security forces," that Abbas no longer poses a security threat to Israel.

The state informed the court that Israel agreed to allow Abbas into the Gaza Strip on April 21, 1996 to enable him to participate in the meeting of the Palestine National Council which was due to vote on the changes in the Palestinian Covenant demanded by Israel. Three days later, Abbas, his wife, and three children were registered in the Palestinian population registry. Since then, he has left the autonomy three times with Israel's permission. He re-entered Gaza on April 27, 1998.

Attorney Nitzza Darshan-Leitner, representing the petitioners, claimed, in response to the government response, that "Attorney-General [Elyakim] Rubinstein is confused about the considerations involved in putting terrorists on trial by the State of Israel on charges of genocide. The same right that enables Israel to try an 80-year-old Nazi war criminal, who does not pose a threat to Israel because

of crimes committed decades ago, gives Israel the right to put Abbas on trial for murder."

No date has yet been set for the hearing on the petitioners request for a temporary restraining order.

## Neutrals respond to US Nazi loot report

### US report lists recipients of German gold

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Spain said its conduct had been "impeccable," while Portugal and Turkey said they have "nothing to hide" as the so-called neutrals began to respond to a US government historical report that criticized their war-time trade with the Nazis.

US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, in a report released Tuesday in Washington, said that Spain, Portugal, Sweden, and Turkey - considered neutral during World War II - sold essential raw materials to the Germans in return for gold that the Nazis had looted from European banks and Holocaust victims.

According to the report, about \$300 million in looted Nazi gold, worth some \$2.6 billion today, was used to pay Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and Sweden for goods they supplied to Germany.

In Madrid, Foreign Minister Abel Matutes said it is widely known that Spain had exported wolfram to the Axis and the Allies.

"That this wolfram was paid for, sometimes with gold and other times in other ways, is a subject that in no way can be used as an accusation against Spain," Matutes told state radio. "[Spain's] action in relation to

the gold robbed by the Nazis from Jews... was impeccable."

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres said his country has appointed a special commission to probe its dealings with Nazi Germany.

Portugal, which also sold wolfram, has said the gold it received was in payment for legitimate business.

A Turkish spokesman said Ankara, which sold chromite to Germany, has nothing to hide since "a committee... has been working on the Turkish archives and so far it has come up with nothing that gives us any cause for concern."

Sweden said it would incorpo-

rate the Eizenstat report into a wider national investigation into its dealings during World War II, which is to be issued at the end of the year. Sweden provided Germany with ball bearings and iron ore.

Switzerland, which allowed Germany to sell the looted gold for Swiss francs, the only worthwhile currency in Europe at the time, was assailed in Eizenstat's first report, in May 1997, for violating its neutrality.

Yesterday, Bern called the new Eizenstat report a "further contribution to clarifying events," but said it offered "no essentially new findings" about Switzerland.

## German court awards Holocaust survivor

BREMEN, Germany (Bloomberg) - The highest court in the German state of Bremen has granted a Jewish concentration camp survivor from Romania DM 15,000 (NIS 30,790) in compensation for her suffering at the hands of the Nazi government during 1944 and 1945, the newspaper *Die Welt* reported.

The woman, initially interned in Auschwitz, was later sent to Bremen, where she was forced to remove wreckage caused by Allied air raids. The court, calling her long-delayed lack of compensation "completely intolerable," said she was only entitled to compensation of a "symbolic character," the paper said.

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

### The Israeli connection

The atom bomb tests in India and Pakistan continued to dominate the Hebrew press this week, following Pakistan's charges that the IAF was planning to strike at its nuclear installations. Questions were also raised about the stalemate in the peace process and its impact on nuclear armament. Most commentators rejected the idea that the advancement of peace will stop the "nuclearization."

Moshe Zak, writing in *Ma'ariv*, suggests that Israel should not allow itself to be drawn into the issue by Pakistan or the Americans. The nuclear escalation, he says, constitutes a "rebellion against the leadership of the US as the guardian of world order."

He adds that an Israeli gesture towards the Palestinians in an attempt to expunge the tests will be like "offering an aspirin to a patient suffering from blood poisoning."

Amos Carmel of *Yedioth Aharonot* refers to Iran's distressing attempt at nuclearization and agrees that the "most generous redeployment of any Israeli government will not reduce by an inch, Iran's dangerous passion for nuclearization."

He adds that Israeli sources' attempts to link the redeployment and nuclearization are dangerous. Yosef Lapid of *Ma'ariv*, on the other hand, believes that there is a connection between peace and armament. "An atmosphere of peace in the Middle East will reduce the danger of nuclear war, just as hostility without hope will escalate the fatal, horrifying use of weapons," he writes.

### Next vote

The Knesset's approval, in a preliminary reading, of a bill to eliminate direct elections drew the attention of commentators. Both Shmuel Shnitzer, in *Ma'ariv*, and Amnon Rubinstein, in *Ha'aretz*, attempted to explain the reasons to object to this type of electoral system.

"What happened now to make us think that [the previous system] was a political paradise?" asks Shnitzer, claiming that no one actually objects to the system "but what really revolts us is the outcome."

"A voting system is not a toy, it is a serious matter that cannot be substituted every Monday and Thursday," he added.

Rubinstein agrees that what disturbs most people is the fact that Binyamin Netanyahu was elected instead of Shimon Peres. He warns against the previous voting system, claiming that it might lead to the election of a haredi as prime minister.

"This possibility seems far fetched today, but tomorrow - due to the increasing numbers among the haredi populace - it might actually occur."

Chemi Shalev, writing in *Ma'ariv*, plays down opinions as predictors of the results of the next election. He states that a large number of the population refuses to expose its preference for one of the candidates.

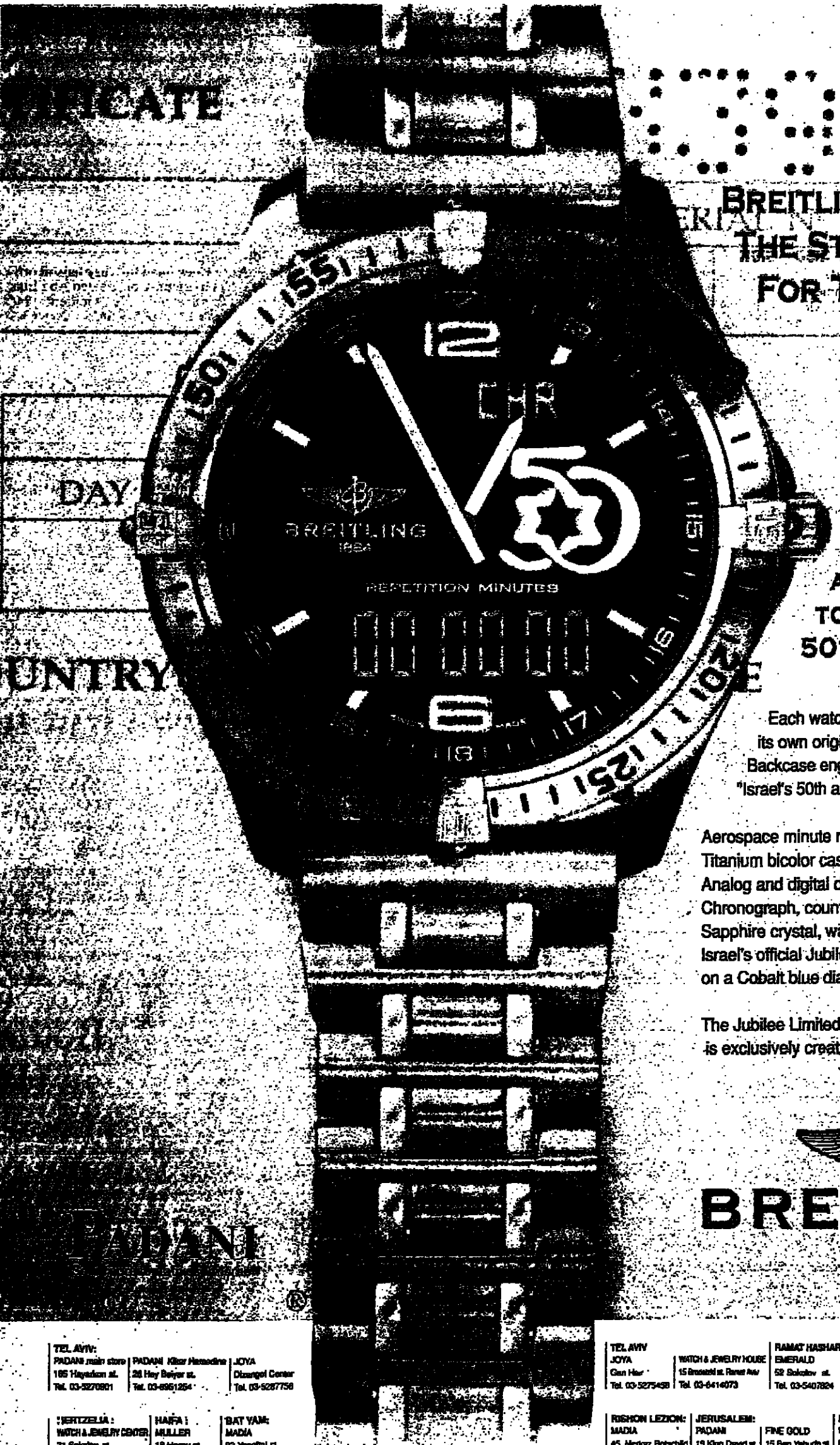
Shalev believes that this group has the power to influence the outcome.

"The statement that Netanyahu is a sure winner is not more than a communication bon ton. It reflects the confident atmosphere of the right wing after the last elections and the fatalism that has grasped the left wing."

### Cairo visit

"Israel must soon offer practical suggestions concerning the redeployment, if it wishes not only to prevent the Arab summit, but a series of international actions meant to force upon Israel a settlement according to an American initiative," writes Lapid in *Ma'ariv*.

He refers to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's meeting Tuesday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, meant to dissuade the latter from participating in the summit. "Netanyahu might miss the opportunity to willingly reach an agreement, and be forced to do so."



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## Ajami's complaint

Cultures often stubbornly refuse to look into themselves; they retreat into the nooks and crannies of their history, fall back on the consolations they know.

That is the tragedy of Arab intellectual life today, as portrayed compellingly in Foad Ajami's brilliant new book, *The Dream Palace of the Arabs*.

I'd long thought Ajami — born in a Lebanese village near the Beaufort castle and now a professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies — was the best analyst on the Middle East in America.

Now I know that for sure. Ajami intertwined his autobiography with Lebanese history in *The Vanished Imam*, then wrote a first-rate book on politics, *The Arab Predicament*. His new work examines the region through its cultural and intellectual life.

Their foreign "friends" among journalists and experts often describe Arabs as heroic struggles against the oppression of Israel and the West. Others accept the primacy of Arab anger but as a threatening menace sparing no effort, among other things, to destroy Israel.

Both images are wrong. The truest likeness of the Arab world — given the frailty of all such generalizations — is one of sadness, frustration, and genuine tragedy. Radical words cannot be matched by deeds. And these rhetoric and ideologies are the betrayers of hope for real national independence, democracy and development.

Ajami's subjects are the best Arab intellectuals and writers of the last half-century. Their belief in militant pan-Arab nationalism was ultimately disillusioned by that doctrine's failures in the form of widespread dictatorship.

Khalil Hawi, a Lebanese poet who committed suicide in 1982, remarked sarcastically, "Let me know if Arab unity is achieved; if I am dead, send someone to my graveside to tell me of it when it is realized."

As Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, Ajami notes, Europe was enjoying growing unity and celebrating the fall of tyranny. Asia was becoming richer, Latin America was building democracy. As a Jordanian lamented, "The whole world is getting democracy except us. Our economies are a mess, we are weak, we are being left behind."

Meanwhile, an intolerant, extremist interpretation of Islam further narrowed the space for free expression. "Political Islam has been checked in its bid for power," explained Egyptian diplomat and thinker Tahseen Basheer, "but the Islamization of society has gained ground."

The great Lebanese poet whose pen name is Adonis warned that this movement would force political thought

to remain an instrument for "fighting the other rather than a means of self-criticism and self-discovery."

Radical Islamic revolution did not spread, Ajami concludes, for several reasons.

Rulers pursued more pragmatic policies of caution, alliance with America or even making peace with Israel. At the same time, as a safety valve, they appropriated Islamic imagery and let intellectuals continue pursuing their radical nationalist rhetoric. The Arab world became even more disunited, returning to the "very old and familiar... feud between sect and clan."

Ajami's chapter on the peace process and perceptions of Israel is especially fascinating and should be widely read here. Arabs are overwhelmingly impressed by its power. As Ajami points out, Israel has a per capita income 10 times that of Egypt, while the whole Arab world exports less manufactured goods than Finland, with its 5 million people.

Among Arabs, Israel often figures as a symbol reflecting politics at home. Describing those brave intellectuals who urged peace, Ajami explains: "They had no love for Israel but wanted release for their homeland from the ruin of its wars with Israel and from the authoritarian political culture that the wars had justified."

Syrian writer Saadallah Wannous wrote that rejecting peace was merely the same old approach that had brought a "succession of defeats and led us to the diplomacy of surrender."

But such ideas could not compete with the demands of regimes, cultural czars, and self-congratulatory intoxication of radical words.

Yasser Arafat was condemned as a turncoat by those whose most risky act had been to pick up a pen. After Shimon Peres's New Middle East rhetoric inadvertently enhanced Arab intellectuals' worst phobias of Israeli domination, the majority took perverse pleasure in Binayamin Netanyahu's election, a "sense of relief that the Israeli peace-makers were gone," letting them return to old slogans.

The cry of "traitor," often accompanying a threat of violence against anyone who thinks for himself, pervades Arab dialogues today. Ironically, those vilified are those most dedicated to trying to improve the situation. But the real traitors to the Arabs are those preaching a militancy that cannot be fulfilled. This pattern only sabotages their own societies and victimizes the Arabs themselves.

This description does not do justice to Ajami's narrative and analysis, which celebrates the great achievements of modern Arabic culture and those real heroes who tried to use self-criticism as a means to self-discovery and a better life for their people.



Barry Rubin

# Now that you're nuclear

The US must decide whether to help Asia's new cold-warriors to develop atomic safety measures

By PAUL RICHTER and TYLER MARSHALL

WASHINGTON — The nuclear tests in South Asia have confronted the Clinton administration with a dilemma over whether to help India and Pakistan develop safety measures for their dangerous new devices, a move that could open the US to charges of spreading nuclear know-how.

The dilemma is just one measure of how radically the political landscape in South Asia has been transformed following the series of nuclear tests carried out last month by India and Pakistan. Emotions remained high in the region Sunday, in the wake of Pakistan's second nuclear test.

In the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, an Indian Embassy employee was reportedly attacked and beaten by a group of young men, while a senior Pakistani official accused India of preparing for more nuclear tests.

Appearing on CNN's *Late Edition*, Pakistani Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan claimed that India is planning new tests.

"I have credible information that they are already in the process of preparing a new test site...to blast somewhere in the first or second week in July," Khan said.

US intelligence sources said they had no indication that such preparations have begun.

Meanwhile, in an apparent attempt to ease tensions, India repeated its willingness to enter into an accord with Pakistan to renounce any first use of atomic weapons.

The idea of helping both countries make their nuclear capabilities safer is driven by practical concerns.

At their current early stage, the two nations' programs are probably highly unsafe, experts say — just as the US and Soviet programs were in the 1950s and early 1960s, before the superpowers developed complex safeguards.

Then, alarmed at a series of bomber crashes and other near-catastrophes, American officials undertook a frantic program to safeguard the US arsenal and were even said to have leaked safety advice to the Soviets and the Chinese.

To do the same with India and Pakistan, however, would fly in the face of new US sanctions, which prohibit military-to-military contacts with either nation and could provoke an international outcry.

"Anything that smacks of us helping them improve their nukes at this stage is highly unlikely," said one senior administration official.

US officials say their overriding



Indian envoy Avitri Kumari (left) and her Pakistani counterpart Munir Akram met at this week's disarmament conference in Geneva. The escalating rivalry between Delhi and Islamabad calls for a revision of traditional US policies in the region. (AP)

objective is to shut down the nuclear programs before the weapons are actually deployed. But outside analysts say it is a safe bet that sharing safety expertise is also under consideration.

"This is a very touchy issue because giving this out is essentially condoning the spread of nuclear technology," said Clay Bowen, an analyst at the Monterey Institute for International Studies.

But, he added, "I'm very confident that behind closed doors, this is already being discussed" in Washington.

An accident with a nuclear bomb could spread toxic plutonium or enriched uranium over a considerable area; some analysts theorize that an accidental explosion might even set off a war if it led one nation to mistakenly believe that it was under attack by its neighbor.

Without security measures, there is also a far greater risk that terrorists or internal dissidents could seize and use a weapon.

"It's hard (for Western countries) to be able to educate the political and military establishments, but the real risk of crude nuclear forces is starting a war by accident," French defense specialist Francois Heisbourg said.

Accidents with US weapons have been hair-raising, though they have never brought about widespread loss of life.

As a result, US officials developed a series of safeguards.

One was a system called Permissive Action Links, or PAL, that keeps weapons from being armed until at least two officials punch in codes after they have received clearance through a chain of command that reaches, in some cases, to the president.

US nuclear weapons have been improved in recent decades to safeguard against damage from fire, being dropped and even lightning.

Today, US nuclear weapons must meet so-called single-point safety requirements, meaning that

a nuclear chain reaction will not begin if the explosive shell accidentally blows up at only one point rather than many. That might occur if, for example, a bomb were dropped.

Bomb-makers have also taken steps to make the devices fire-resistant: At high temperatures, for instance, the circuits will melt down to prevent a bomb from exploding.

The Pakistanis received their nuclear know-how in part from the Chinese, who may have passed along safety advice as well, "or so we can hope," said Stan Norris, an analyst at the National Resources Defense Council.

"The fact is," Norris said, "we don't know for sure."

The US does have other, less problematic ways of trying to help the two countries avoid a catastrophe.

It can help India and Pakistan develop diplomatic safeguards to improve communications and fos-

ter trust to try to ensure that a war between them will not start through accident or miscommunication.

Only the barest confidence-building measures now exist between the two South Asian neighbors, all of them predating the latest nuclear tests. They include a hotline connecting the two militaries, installed in 1991; a 1992 accord on advanced notification of large-scale military movements; and a separate agreement on military overflights.

Many of the Cold War safety measures implemented to prevent a US-Soviet nuclear exchange, arms control specialists note, were developed based on the distance between the US and the Soviet Union, which would mean a 30-minute lag time between a missile launch and its arrival at a target.

"If anything, it's a more challenging environment" in South Asia, a US official said.

"They are two countries close to each other with a long, intense rivalry." (LA Times)

## A microcosm of Iranian change

By ROBIN WRIGHT

TEHRAN, Iran — It broke the story of the Revolutionary Guard commander's behind-closed-doors speech calling for the beheading of Iran's new reformers. It interviewed a former official freed after 15 years in prison as a US spy. It

dared to cover the misadventures of religious hoodlums known as Ansar Hezbollah, or "helpers to the party of God."

And now Tehran's latest newspaper, *Jameh*, may get the scoop of its short life: The White House has confirmed that it has approved in principle *Jameh's* request for an

interview with US National Security Adviser Samuel R. "Sandy" Berger — in what would be the first contact between a White House official and the Iranian press since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

*Jameh*, however, has already made history.

Launched in February, the gutsy little paper — 16 pages of uncondemned news, commentary, acerbic satire, political cartoons and culture — has become a barometer of the sweeping changes in Iran since reformist President Mohammad Khatami came to power last August.

"The paper has two functions: We are trying democratic discourse, and we are a good test case to see how much freedom the government can tolerate," said *Jameh's* soulful editor, Mashaallah Shamsol-Wajiz.

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## AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

The Third Way however, has adopted Lubotzky's position against withdrawing from the Judean Desert. Officially, the reason for this is security, however, as Lubotzky himself has admitted: "There is no risk in transferring the desert areas. However, because I support a Greater Israel, I believe that the more densely populated areas are a lost cause and we must therefore retain the unsettled, desert regions as a land reserve for future Jewish settlement."

The strongest opponent to The Third Way leaving the coalition is Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani. Last week he was given a prize — and joined the meeting between Yitzhak Molcho and Palestinian leaders. Molcho wears two hats — one as legal adviser to the negotiations, alongside Netanyahu and cabinet secretary Dan Naveh. The other is similar to that formerly worn by ex-General Security Service official Yossi Ginosar, who served as Yitzhak Rabin's quiet, back door channel to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. When Arafat made a special request, Ginosar would bring with him the relevant minister or director-general in order to solve the problem on the spot.

Kahalani joined last week's meeting in this capacity. There were no political negotiations, but Kahalani felt flattered.

Lubotzky left the meeting with Netanyahu with the feeling that the prime minister had once again managed to place a fog over his plans and extinguish the fuse which threatens to blow up the coalition. He is in no hurry to transfer responsibility for the

negotiations to the Labor Party, but he is hinting at this to his voters, who want the redeployment. As he says: "Tomorrow is another day."

The person with the most difficulty in looking forward to tomorrow's surprises is Arafat. One of his entourage told me this week that he now has higher hopes of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon than of Netanyahu. Sharon's redeployment proposal is worth closer examination, Arafat says.

Although it only offers 9 percent, it allows for direct travel from Jenin, via Nablus and Ramallah, to Hebron without any Israeli roadblocks. Perhaps this is the bird in the hand and not the two in the bush which Netanyahu keeps promising.

**The settlers' stranglehold**  
Tomorrow morning many of you will find pamphlets issued by the Land of Israel Front and the Council of Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza in your mailboxes. They are largely directed at those who support The Third Way and are in the center of the political map.

Council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein and director-general Aharon Domb, who see themselves as leaders of the "settlers union," hope to distribute a million pamphlets over the next few days.

The pamphlet seeks to shatter the demographic myth by pointing out that 97% of the Palestinian population will be included when the densely populated areas, which account for just 27% of Judea and Samaria, are transferred to PA control. It also seeks to point out the danger involved in isolating settlements following any further redeployment and the damage

to national interests by conceding an area (13% of the territory) which equals the size of the coastal strip between Hadera and Tel Aviv.

Also highlighted are the importance of Judea and Samaria for defense in the face of an eastern front and as a buffer zone between concentrated Jewish settlement within the Green Line and the Palestinian population; for protecting water sources, greater Jerusalem, and the holy places; and that the settlement blocs can help block the creation of a Palestinian state.

The settlers' line of defense is based on a national security formula reminiscent of Sharon's position.

"Twenty-seven percent of the area has already been handed over to the Palestinians in the existing agreements; the IDF has determined that the line from Arad to Ma'aleh Gilboa is a strategic axis which must remain under full Israeli control in the event of war. The axis and the area to the east of it constitute 45% of the territory and cannot be given up; the area surrounding Jerusalem and the ring which runs the length of the Green Line is essential for separating the West Bank and the Green Line and constitutes 15% of the entire region; 4% of the area is occupied by settlements, which are not part of the negotiations on the interim agreements."

4+15+45+27= 91. This is the calculation made by Wallerstein and Domb which allows for a maximum redeployment of 9%. Doesn't it remind you of something?

**Yassin and Arafat**  
A poll conducted at the end of last month by the Jerusalem (Palestinian) Media Institute

revealed that there is a gradual decline in support for the peace process among Palestinians and a gradual increase in Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin's popularity at Arafat's expense.

Over the last six months, optimism about the peace process among residents of the territories has declined from 72.4% to 65.6%.

During the same period, Yassin's popularity shot up from 5.8% to 8.4%, whereas support for Arafat dropped from 46.4% to 38.7%.

In 1994, on the eve of one of the first visits by US secretary of state Warren Christopher following Arafat's return to Gaza, the Palestinians were informed that, in a preparatory meeting, the American guest intended to demand that the PA leader take a tough stand against Hamas.

At the outset of the discussion Arafat stated: "Sir, I wish to note that we fully support the way in which you have encouraged the Algerian government to conduct a dialogue with the fundamentalists in order to avoid violent confrontation."

Christopher understood the hint and refrained from raising Israel's demand that Arafat deal severely with Hamas. This has been the PA's policy since the Oslo Accords were signed, and it has made every effort to prevent cooperation between Hamas in the territories and Hamas and other fundamentalist organizations in the Arab world.

The results were not slow in appearing. From the outset, Arafat succeeded in limiting the scale of this populist movement to one of a political party under supervision. In recent weeks however, Arafat has felt threatened by Yassin's unprecedented tour of Arab states.

On Monday, some PLO leaders

in the territories presented Yassin's tour as "an Israeli-American conspiracy."

"How is it that the Americans did not prevent Saudi Arabia and Kuwait from giving him the royal welcome and filling his coffers with tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars?"

With the exception of Jordan, most of the Arab states, along with Iran and Sudan, welcomed Yassin in unprecedented fashion. Jordan's abstention from welcoming him was considered by the Palestinians to be mainly a matter of honor. He did not begin his tour in Amman, even though it was King Hussein who managed to earn his release from an Israeli jail.

On Saturday, after the reception in Yassin's honor, the Saudi royal court prepared a similar reception for Arafat, although his pockets remained empty. The previous day Labor MK Yossi Beilin had visited him at his Ramallah office. Contrary to previous visits, he found Arafat was in much better health and more focused. Arafat was extremely concerned about the outcome of Yassin's tour.

"Netanyahu believes that there is no terror due to the success of Israel's policy and Palestinian treatment of the issue. He complains that we do not operate against the Hamas infrastructure, but the Israelis and the Americans allow Yassin to travel freely and collect money for Hamas."

Arafat also hinted that this was a conspiracy aimed at pressuring him into accepting Israeli dictates. However, Beilin's experience has taught him that the conspiracy concept is almost nonexistent in the political framework and he attempted to convince Arafat of this.

Arafat is still waiting for Israeli-American relations to blow up. If Arafat realized how hard the

American administration has tried to persuade the Israelis that delaying implementation of the redeployment will harm the PA as a partner to the agreement and lead to its replacement by Hamas, he might well abandon his conspiracy theory.

**A rising star**  
At the end of last week there was a vocal conflict in the Palestinian Legislative Council in Ramallah between Speaker Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala) and member from Gaza, Ramiyah Shawah, who attempted to bring a group of mothers of prisoners in Palestinian jails into the debating chamber.

Qurei shouted at her: "Don't embarrass me. I'm a greater nationalist than you are; don't put me into embarrassing situations."

The council members realized that Qurei was trying to avoid embarrassment for Arafat more than he was concerned for himself.

In recent weeks the Palestinians seem less pre-occupied with who will succeed Arafat and more concerned with who will succeed his deputy, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen). The prevailing opinion is that Arafat now prefers Qurei. More and more he has turned him into his confidant and sent him to conduct secret talks with Netanyahu, Sharon, and Mordechai.

The council members are complaining that "Qurei is more Arafat than Arafat himself and has confused the reins of power." Last week there was almost an uprising in the Legislative Council after he prevented a vote on a no-confidence motion in the government.

**A new romance**  
In recent weeks Ahmed Tibi has been involved in a new romance with Hadash. The movement's activists relate

that he is making a concerted effort to be placed on their list for the next Knesset elections. Arafat's adviser's joining an Israeli party is being greeted with mixed feelings.

Some senior party officials with whom I spoke claim that Tibi cannot enlist sufficient support in the Arab street. They accuse him of devoting most of his time to penetrating the gossip columns in the Israeli press, instead of acting on behalf of the public he is supposed to represent.

In 1992 he tried to run on the Meretz list. In 1996 he wooed the Islamic movement and almost attempted to run on an independent list, until he realized he had no chance. He is photographed at cocktail parties with former GSS head Ya'acov Peri and at the opening of a synagogue named for the late Jonathan Bardugo in Lod. He does a kippa when in the company of right-wing businessman David Appel.

"So who does he represent?" asked one of the Hadash MKs. I directed the question to Mahmoud Baraka, the Hadash chairman. "We get along fine together and meet frequently, but it is too early to speak of his joining our list. I'm all in favor of new blood, but right now we are concentrating on the elections to the Histadrut and local councils."

Tibi's opponents in the Arab community say that the key to this riddle is to be found elsewhere. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the flow of funds to Rakah (Israel's communist party), one said, "The Arab party leaders are looking for funds and they are hoping that Tibi will be able to persuade Arafat to put his hand in his pocket and fill the shortfall from Mother Russia."

What are you so surprised about? Shas would do the same.



# UJA, CJF, UIA merger expected to create 'solid agenda'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The planned merger of the United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations, and the United Israel Appeal is expected to create "a more solid, agreed-upon agenda" vis-a-vis Israel and the organizations' goals, a source familiar with their work said yesterday.

This represents an acceleration of Partnership, the name given to the union established between the CJF and UIA over the past year, to which the UJA was added last week.

The new entity is expected to be able to reach more donors and send more funds to those in need of them, a spokesman for Partnership said. It also hopes to serve as a unifying force among Jews, and improve ties between national and local arms of the UJA Federation fundraising network.

Partnership is to establish a new office in New York at the end of the month, with a new name for the joint body to be formulated.

"What's happened is that the agendas of these bodies are not as separate as they used to be," the source said.

"They've all kind of merged in many ways, and they're tripping over each other. And this is why the big federation guys are pushing for merger. They say it would be more effective, that the interests have merged. Israel-Diaspora

relations have changed and America also has needs from Israel, and all of these things should be rolled up together."

The source said that the new body will be "much more efficient," and noted: "You can't plan for the future if these three agencies are working at what is sometimes perceived as cross purposes."

However, Prof. Steven Cohen of the Hebrew University's Melton Center for Jewish Education, said the merger "may symbolize some worrying trends in American Jewish life."

Among these is "the possibility of a decline in an explicitly pro-Israel force within American Jewry that has been represented both by the UJA and the UIA."

The second concern, he said, is "that one wonders whether there is simply a decline in the number and quality of committed leaders who are able to sustain two or three major national philanthropic organizations."

Marilyn Henry adds from New York:

Israel advocates have expressed concern about the merger, fearing that allocations for Israel - already decreasing - would suffer. The federations' focus on domestic American Jewish concerns has increased, at the expense of the Jewish Agency, as evidenced by the steady decline in allocations to Israel.

# Thai Hitler commercial withdrawn

By PATRICK McDOWELL

BANGKOK (AP) — An advertising agency yesterday terminated a TV-and-poster campaign using images of Adolf Hitler to sell potato chips following protests that the ads were repugnant.

Leo Burnett Bangkok, the Thai office of the Chicago-based Leo Burnett agency, issued a statement reiterating apologies over the ads and said they were "never intended to cause any ill feeling."

Commercial will be withdrawn from television immediately, and the more complicated removal of posters from thousands of tuk-tuks - the three-wheeled motorized taxis plying Bangkok's streets - will be completed by Sunday.

Avi Nil, charge d'affaires of the Israeli Embassy, praised the agency for killing the ads once they became aware of how offensive they were.

"We're happy with this action," Nil said. "If they had realized the real meaning to people like us and other victims of the Nazis, they would never have started in the first place."

Nil said that the company's "vigorous response shows there was really no bad intention."

Israeli officials viewed the ads as morally unacceptable, saying Hitler should not be used as a means to make money.

Simone Wheeler, a spokeswoman for Leo Burnett, said financial details of the contract were confidential. No decision has been made on how to replace the ads or on new screening procedures to avoid a similar mistake in the future.



A Thai driver removes one of the advertising posters using Hitler to sell potato chips from his taxi yesterday in Bangkok. (AP)

The commercial for X potato chips, targeted at Thai teenagers, depicts Hitler giving a Nazi salute and cuts to a woman who casts a spell on him as he eats the chips, hoping to change his evil ways.

A Nazi swastika turns into the product logo as the transformation is completed.

Leo Burnett said the ads, shown only in Thailand, were meant to show the world would be a better place if happiness prevailed. The chips are made by Food Processing Co. Ltd., a Thai firm.

Leo Burnett Bangkok apologized

for the ads Sunday and had been discussing the campaign, originally set to run through June, with its client for the past few days.

"The agency acknowledges Hitler as one of history's most despicable dictators and never intended to suggest otherwise," the statement said.

Nil has said the controversy should raise awareness about Hitler among Thais. Consciousness about the Nazis is somewhat less in Asia, where their armies did not reach, than in the West.

# Knesset probe of haredi housing rebuffed

By DAN IZENBERG

Knesset State Control Committee chairman Yossi Katz's (Labor) plans to turn his committee into a Senate-like investigative committee went up in smoke yesterday when he failed to win the cooperation of his Knesset colleagues or Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush.

Yesterday's meeting was scheduled to deal with the most contro-

versal findings of the state comptroller's 48th annual report - the charges of preferential treatment by the Housing Ministry toward the haredi sector.

Katz recently announced that he would conduct the committee's hearings on the report, published last month, according to a question-answer format in an attempt to get to the heart of the issues that were raised.

He said the ministers would have

to prepare themselves in advance for what he hoped would be the hard-hitting queries of the MKs. But coalition MKs refused to cooperate, and the proceedings quickly broke down into a shouting match between Katz and his colleagues.

At one point, Katz called a five-minute recess to cool things down, but the discussion quickly turned acrimonious again. Meanwhile, Porush demonstratively declined to cooperate with Katz.

When Katz insisted that Porush answer his first question, Porush refused, saying he wanted to collect a list of questions before responding. The two faced off for several minutes before reaching a compromise, which was that five questions would be asked before an answer was given.

Porush, who egged on his coalition colleagues, watched with obvious amusement as they clashed with their chairman.

In his opening remarks at the beginning of the meeting, Porush denied the charges in the state comptroller's report.

He said that only 17 percent of the short- and middle-range reservoir of housing solutions in the country was earmarked for the haredi sector. He also said that some of the examples of preferential treatment referred to in the report had been initiated by the previous Labor government.

# Tichon: Knesset receiving hate mail

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said yesterday that scores of threats have been recently received by MKs, and the police are finding it difficult to trace the senders of the hate mail.

"It's not a phenomenon, it's become a plague," said Tichon who has received threats himself. "We must ask ourselves if we are not standing in the face of a political assassination. I am very concerned."

"I'm so used to getting threats over the last 25 years that I can tell anyone who is worried that there is life after threats," said Sarid. "Every threat I get makes me even more active."

Sarid said this week got a letter from someone who signed himself "Avi," who warned Sarid that he had a bad feeling that something would happen to him today.

Tichon noted that MKs on both Left and Right have received hate mail and had threats to their lives and those of their families. Some of the letters had bullets attached.

who feel they would be harmed by a construction plan to oppose it even if their opposition is based on purely environmental considerations. The bill was submitted by MK Avraham Herschson (Likud) and David Magen (Gesher).

a bill which would allow local radio stations to broadcast election materials for the municipal elections. The bill is aimed against the pirate stations which can broadcast material without any supervision. It was filed by Pini Badash (Tsimet), Ophir Pines (Labor) and Zeev Boim (Likud).

a bill submitted by Rafi Elul (Labor) which would anchor in legislation the ways of handling public complaints to ensure they are properly dealt with.

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) yesterday turned his proposed bill which called for a fine for people who shove in line into a motion to the agenda instead.

General's policies during the war," Kleiner said. "This list must be compared to the list of those killed, which is also at Yad Vashem, in an attempt to try to find the potential heirs who could benefit from those policies."

The US has already budgeted \$5 million to investigate the matter of Jewish property during World War II, Kleiner said, and suggested matching this dollar for dollar.

# Shas would work with Aviv Geffen to fight smoking

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset sent out a message yesterday to mark Israel's observance of World No-Tobacco Day: Smoke doesn't only get in your eyes; it gets in your lungs and can kill you.

Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri said that cigarette packets should carry a warning that it is halachically forbidden to smoke because of the health hazards. He said 70% of the religious and haredi public had stopped smoking because rabbis had come out against it.

He told reporters that if rabbis can persuade the religious public to stop smoking, maybe entertainers and artists can persuade secular youth.

"Maybe we could hold a joint campaign with [pop star] Aviv Geffen and his friends and me and the rabbis against smoking: Aviv Geffen and Shlomo Benizri and, on the side, Dana [International]," Benizri said.

In the plenum, Benizri said 5,000 active smokers in Israel die every year as a result of smoking related health problems

and another 1,000 passive smokers.

"Can't this be defined as mass suicide?" he asked.

He suggested legislation which would ban the sales of tobacco products to those under age 18; banning free distribution of cigarettes; banning commercials for cigarettes; extending the public areas in which smoking would be banned; and requiring that tobacco companies annually publish the amount of addictive contents in their products.

An anti-smoking information campaign was staged inside the Knesset, with a demonstration of the dangers of passive smoking.

Former deputy health minister Nawaf Massalha (Labor) restricted his smoking yesterday to his own office and said he would not smoke in public in honor of the event.

Former environment minister Yossi Sarid (Meretz) was less restrained. He was not only seen puffing on a cigarette, he was seen doing it in the clearly-marked no-smoking section of the MKs' cafeteria.

# Several bills pass preliminary readings

Several bills passed preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday including:

- a bill by MK Yosi Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) under which employers who want to fire workers must hand them a written letter, and the dismissal will only go into effect after a worker receives the letter.
- a bill under which the firearms license of a person against whom a complaint of violence has been lodged with the police in the past five years would not be renewed. The bill was submitted by Dalia Itzik (Labor).
- a bill which would let citizens

# Computerize victims names at Yad Vashem

Michael Kleiner (Gesher) has called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to establish, together with the US, a \$10 million fund to computerize the list of Holocaust victims recorded at Yad Vashem. He said such computerization could help the restitution of assets.

The Italian Insurance Conglomerate Generali gave Yad Vashem a computer diskette with the names of 300,000 households, most of them Jewish, which held

# Yoghurt recommended for sufferers of lactase deficiency

By JUDY SIEGEL

Out of all the claims that various types of yoghurt are "beneficial to health," the one that has solid scientific proof is that yoghurt is more easily digestible than milk in people suffering from lactase deficiency, according to the Health Ministry's nutrition department, which yesterday issued an assessment of claims about yoghurt.

The department, headed by Dr. Dorit Kalusky, said the term "probiotic" (as opposed to the well-known term "antibiotic") was first used in 1965 to refer to substances that contribute to the balance of microflora in the intestines. Since then, it concentrated on food with beneficial live microorganisms.

"Many research studies have been carried out during the past few decades in an attempt to clar-

ify the importance of fermented milk products to our health," Kalusky said. "Most of these were based on lab models, some on animals and only a minority on humans."

Among the claims have been that yoghurt and other fermented milk products "boost the immune system," "help protect against colon cancer," "reduce blood cholesterol" and "fight yeasts."

The ministry's Food Service Division recently forced Tuva to amend its advertising campaign promoting its "LGG" yoghurt, because it was making specific and detailed therapeutic claims.

Yoghurt is defined as milk that has fermented with *Streptococcus thermophilus* and *Lactobacillus bulgaricus* bacteria at specific temperatures and for certain amounts of time.

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- Bids should be placed in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem.
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## NEWS

in brief

### Aussie FM to raise bridge disaster in visit

A spokesman for Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said yesterday that he would raise the issue of the athletes injured in the Maccabiah bridge disaster when he meets with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a four-day visit that starts Saturday.

The families of the victims have been pressuring Downer to demand that the Knesset establish an independent inquiry into the bridge affair.

Most of the MKs agree to set up an inquiry, but there are some, chiefly Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled, who are trying to block the proposal to launch an independent inquiry, Colin Elterman said yesterday on behalf of the victims' families. Elterman is the father of Sacha Elterman, who was severely injured in the bridge disaster.

Netanyahu is to visit Australia in August. *Itim*

### Suspect arrested in attempted gang murder

Attorney Nurit Buchnik was arrested yesterday on suspicion that she was involved in planning to murder Roni Harari, the brother of the reputed head of the Ramat Amidar Gang. On May 5, two men on a motorcycle rode up to a Givatayim cafe, in which Harari was sitting, and sprayed the cafe with fire from an assault rifle. Eleven people, including Harari, were injured in the attack. *Itim*

### Bezeq allowed to dig at own discretion

In an experiment initiated by Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Bezeq will, for the next year, be able to dig company infrastructure projects without seeking the approval of the ministry. If Bezeq's digging endangers the infrastructure of cable TV stations or cellular phone companies, they must be consulted in advance. *Judy Siegel*

### Spain to give \$1.6m. to Sephardi movement

Spain plans to give \$1.6 million to the World Sephardi Organization, US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat said in Washington as he released a historical report on the war-time trade of the neutral nations with the Nazis.

At the so-called "Nazi Gold" conference in London last December, nations were asked to contribute to an international fund that would be used to benefit Nazi victims. Spain, however, told the US it would contribute to the Sephardi organization, Eizenstat said Tuesday.

One of the four neutrals mentioned in the US report, Spain was criticized for exporting wolfram to Germany. *Marilyn Henry*

### Police sappers dismantle bomb in Ramat Aviv

Police sappers dismantled a 250 gram bomb left near the entrance to an IDF base on Rehov Levanon in Ramat Aviv yesterday morning. Police said that it did not appear the bomb was planted by terrorists and suggested that it had been planted as a practical joke. The bomb had been left in an out-of-the-way area and would have caused little damage had it exploded, police said. *Itim*

### Police ask IBA for Betar rally tapes

Jerusalem Police yesterday asked the Israel Broadcasting Authority to hand over its tapes of the Betar Jerusalem victory celebration, at which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was shown standing on a podium at Kikar Safra while part of the crowd chanted, "Death to the Arabs." IBA staffers have been accused of doctoring the tape so that it appears Netanyahu was aware of what the crowd was chanting.

Police also asked the IBA's legal adviser for any information found by the committee the IBA formed to investigate the allegations. The information was requested after the Union for the Public's Rights asked police to investigate whether the IBA staffers involved could be charged with forgery and breach of trust by civil servants. *Itim*

### Meteorologists call off one-day strike

A strike called on Tuesday evening by meteorologists at Ben-Gurion Airport was called off yesterday, after directors of the meteorological services agreed to cancel the dismissals of 11 employees and to hold further talks with union leaders.

Forecasters were back at work in the afternoon and those dismissed agreed to resume work as soon as they received reinstatement letters. *Itim*

# Pines: Falash Mura turned into settlers against their will

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Falash Mura have been turned into "settlers against their will, and part of the political argument, without their being given a chance to formulate a stand," MK Ophir Pines (Labor) said yesterday during a visit to Ofra by the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee.

The committee was visiting Falash Mura who have been absorbed in Ofra in recent weeks, after being taken there directly upon arrival in the country, a move that has drawn criticism from Labor MKs.

MK Adisu Massala said that the immigrants were sent to Ofra against their will, and that Ofra officials are threatening the newcomers, telling them that if they leave, they will not be given benefits, including mortgages.

However, Yona Hoffman, responsible for absorption in the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, told Massala: "You're a little politician who is only interested in inciting the immigrants. Stay in Labor so the immigrants continue to vote Likud."

Hoffman reported that some 150 Falash

Mura have been absorbed in Ofra since Pessah, and all are currently undergoing conversion.

One Ethiopian immigrant who has been living in Ofra for several years praised their absorption at Ofra, saying that "instead of turning Ethiopian Jews into time bombs whose children wander around the central bus station, they get a decent education here and a warm home."

Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) told the immigrants: "We are happy you came here. This is the land of Israel you dreamed of. You have

enough time until the next election to understand and decide."

She told those opposed to absorbing the immigrants in Ofra that instead of criticizing, they should "express their appreciation to the settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza which have agreed to absorb the immigrants the previous Labor government would not bring here."

There are currently 250 Falash Mura waiting in Addis Ababa to come here, Shlomo Mula of the Absorption Ministry said. One hundred are to be settled at Givat Hamatos in Jerusalem, 100 in Ofra, and 50 in Tapuz.

## Farmers help rare birds

By DAVID RUDGE

Farmers in the Hula Valley have come to the aid of an endangered species of birds which have a tendency to lay their eggs in the most awkward of places - in the middle of fields.

The farmers had intended to use cultivators to remove weeds from their rows of peanut crops in the Hula Valley until they came across a large number of eggs.

They informed the Nature Reserves and National Parks Authority (NR-NPA), which discovered that the eggs belonged to a rare species known as the Collared Pratincole.

Unlike other species, these birds do not build nests but simply lay their eggs on the ground, usually in marshland dried by the early summer sun.

NR-NPA officials said the colorful birds had abounded throughout Israel and other parts of the world until their natural habitat was taken over by agriculture. According to the officials, there are now only a few hundred of the Pratincoles to be found in the Jezreel and Beit She'an valleys, but mainly in the Hula region.

The NR-NPA, in coordination with the farmers, decided that the best way to remove weeds that could strangle the peanut plants without endangering the eggs would be to use herbicides instead of mechanical means. Yossi Va'adiya, director of the Hula Valley nature reserve, said it had been found that the weed-spray did not harm the eggs but solved the farmers' problem.

Nevertheless, the farmers decided to defer the weed removal for a further week to enable the incubation period to continue undisturbed.

NR-NPA officials said they hoped that during this period the adult birds would not be disturbed and this would allow more eggs to hatch.

The authority plans to release to the wild a vulture that a NR-NPA warden found injured on Mt. Hermon three weeks ago.

The vulture was treated in the "Born to Nature" veterinary services department of Tel Aviv zoological park and is due to be set free today.



Czech visitor

President of the Czech Senate Petr Pithart lays a wreath on the memorial to fallen soldiers outside the Knesset yesterday. (Isaac Hersh)

## High school teachers threatening to strike

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Secondary Schools Teachers Association has declared a work dispute and is threatening to strike the nation's high schools next week to protest the dismissal of hundreds of teachers and reduction of hours for thousands more.

The teachers received letters from the local authorities which employ them following the Education Ministry's initial decision to halt funding it gives the authorities for the teachers. Secondary School Teachers Association officials told the Knesset Education Committee Tuesday that in response, it would strike the high schools next week, and would hold wide-scale demonstrations.

Most of the teachers who received dismissal notices work in development towns. According to association head Ran Erez, Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Delli told the Education Committee on Tuesday that the ministry had decided to "change the criteria" for

funding of these teachers, who provide additional classroom hours, mainly for needy pupils.

"For 25 years these funds were distributed to schools in which they were needed," Erez said. "Now they decided to do away with this."

He said the ministry had initially talked of doing away with the funding altogether, leading to the firings and cutbacks. This decision prompted an outcry by the teachers and the declaration of a work dispute. On Tuesday, Delli told the committee that the funding would not be done away with, but that instead "the criteria would be changed," according to Erez.

"We want to know, first of all, what are the criteria. You can't do something like this without us knowing what the criteria are. And we want to know who the new schools are. They may be deserving, and they should get the money, or they could be schools that have ties to someone. And no one has shown that the schools that received funding until now have suddenly become so strong they don't need this help. If

there are others fine, but you can't right a wrong by creating another wrong," Erez said.

An Education Ministry spokeswoman said in response that it was the government and not the ministry which had initially decided to cut the funds, and that Delli had decided to act to try save the allocations. She said that the criteria are still being worked out with the Treasury, but that they will depend on the seriousness of the needs, and money would not be allocated "blindly."

Shmuel Abuav, head of the Union of Local Authorities' education committee, said that under the new funding system, money for providing help to the needy schools is to come from the budgets of other high schools. He said he had received angry letters from local authority heads complaining about this.

"This is a scandal in and of itself, because these schools are already dealing with sliced budgets which are already making it difficult for them to operate properly," he said.

## Histadrut teachers cancel sanctions

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Histadrut Teachers Union yesterday announced it was cancelling sanctions being applied to after-school activities, including trips and cultural events.

The decision came after the Finance Ministry agreed to enter into intensified negotiations with the union over compensation for teachers participating in such activities, along with issues concerning work done by principals and their salaries.

But Secondary School Teachers

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy praised the union, and called on principals and teachers to use the remaining school time for cultural and social activities that are an integral part of the educational program.

Levy called on the Secondary School Teachers Association to follow the Histadrut Teachers Union's lead and end its sanctions as well, noting that the damage caused to pupils by cancellation of activities was irreparable.

The sanctions, he said, "have not helped anyone, certainly not the teachers' image."

## Both sides claim victory in Haifa marina project

By DAVID RUDGE

The row over Haifa's proposed hotel, holiday home and marina project continued yesterday with both proponents and opponents claiming that the National Building and Planning Commission had decided in their favor.

Conservationists said that the decision of the commission to defer approval of the multimillion dollar project was a victory for those trying to preserve the coastline in Haifa and throughout the country generally.

The Haifa Economic Development Corporation, however, maintained that the project as such had been approved but would now have to be referred to the government for approval as a change in the national coastline structure plan.

Nehama Ronen, director-general of the Environment Ministry, said

that because the subject had been reopened for discussion by the decision of the commission, the entire issue of marinas along Israel's coastline should be reconsidered.

The spokesman for the ministry said that according to recent information, there is currently a surplus of anchorage berths for boats.

Furthermore, the ministry had more detailed information about the damage caused to the marine coastline and beaches by the construction of marinas, as well as by development of hotels and holiday homes.

The spokesman said the ministry was of the opinion that there was no justification for the construction of any more marinas along the coastline and that all those marked in the structure plan, including that planned for Haifa, should be scrapped.

Avi Goldenberg, head of the

Haifa Economic Development Corporation, maintained that the interpretation of the commission's decision by the ministry and conservationist groups was erroneous.

He said that the ministry's decision represented an unnecessary delay but that ultimately the project, which had passed all previous planning stages in the past 12 years, would be approved.

Goldenberg said that the project itself had been approved although the appropriate wording regarding a change to the national structure plan would have to be submitted to the commission within a month. The project would then be submitted to the government for final approval, he said.

He added that there was no reason to try and tie the Haifa project, which he called one of the most important tourist projects in the history of the city, to any other proposed marina schemes.

## Where to eat in Israel

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DARNA - Authentic Moroccan Restaurant, KOSHER. Our home is your home. Business lunch, salads, couscous, dessert, traditional mint tea. Only NIS 69. with this ad. Open 12-3 p.m., 6:30-11:30 p.m. 3 Harkness St. Tel. 02-624

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## NATO balks at sending troops to Albania

By IAN GEOGHEGAN

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - NATO yesterday put off sending troops to Albania to try and contain the growing crisis in the neighboring Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

The alliance's 16 permanent ambassadors, meeting in Brussels, said they first wanted to fully review their military options.

"We all agreed we cannot proceed until we have solid, well thought-out military advice," a NATO official said.

"That type of work cannot be done in minutes or hours. It does take several days. We are going to do that work as quickly as we possibly can, but the quality of the end product is as important as the speed of the product," the official said.

"NATO is a serious organization. We cannot do things which are not guaranteed to be effective."

The official said NATO defense ministers would meet in Brussels on June 11 to discuss future strategy.

by which time alliance military commanders would have prepared some early planning for possible troop deployment.

At a meeting in Luxembourg last week, the alliance's foreign ministers agreed to step up technical assistance to Albania and hold a joint military exercise there in mid-August, while studying troop deployment and unspecified "further measures."

NATO said yesterday it would accelerate the technical assistance elements of the Luxembourg package, advancing the date of visits to the region by NATO personnel and bringing forward planned military exercises there.

Rising violence between Serbs and majority ethnic Albanians in Kosovo has forced hundreds of refugees to flee to neighboring Albania. At least 200 people have been killed since February.

On Monday the Albanian government urged the international community to intervene "powerfully and immediately" to halt

alleged ethnic cleansing of Albanians in Kosovo, where they outnumber Serbs by nine to one.

The following day, Albanian Prime Minister Fatos Nano stepped up the pressure with a strongly worded statement accusing Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic of ethnic cleansing on Kosovo's Albanian majority.

Albania, Europe's poorest country, backs Kosovo's autonomy within Yugoslavia rather than the independence sought by the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which has been fighting Serb security forces for most of this year.

In Pristina, the Kosovo provincial capital, Serbian sources said that security forces had completed a five-day operation in the embattled southwest and purged two communities, Decani and Cirovobreg, of separatist ethnic Albanian gunmen.

The sources reported 27 dead in operations involving heavy cannon and artillery over the past

four days which left a number of villages razed, adding that the gunmen had retreated to Glodjane, said to be the KLA headquarters.

None of the reports could be independently confirmed as reporters, international monitors and diplomats are prevented from entering the operation zone both by Serbs and the KLA.

The UN refugee agency has said it is rushing emergency supplies to the many hundreds of refugees fleeing across the border into Albania.

The NATO official said the alliance was not sitting idly by while the Kosovo crisis threatened to spiral out of control.

"The mood of the ambassadors... is that we can, and will, not rule anything out at this stage," he said. "We are determined to prevent Kosovo becoming a second Bosnia, and there is an increased awareness that the situation has seriously deteriorated over the last few days."

## At least 100 dead in German train crash

By CLAUD-PETER TIEMANN

ESCHEDE, Germany (AP) — A high-speed passenger train derailed yesterday in northern Germany, killing at least 100 people and seriously injuring scores as the car after car of the train crumpled into the concrete base of an overpass.

The crash — Germany's deadliest rail disaster in 31 years — happened at 11 a.m. as the Hamburg-bound train sped at 200 kilometers an hour approaching the station in Eschede, 50 kilometers north of Hanover.

The cause of the accident remained unclear, and authorities were unable to account for discrepancies in the number of injured.

The Lower Saxony state Interior Ministry spokesman Frank Lukashewski confirmed 100 bodies had been recovered and stood by reports of up to 300 injured.

However, rescue coordinators, speaking at a news conference, reported 40 injured.

Klaus Rathert, the chief regional rescue coordinator, told the news conference that the front locomotive apparently decoupled from the passenger cars, causing them to derail and jackknife into the overpass.

The front locomotive traveled at least 500 meters from the scene of the derailment, through the Eschede train station, before the driver realized he'd lost the passenger cars, Rathert said.

The station chief engaged the emergency brake, stopping the locomotive about two kilometers from the scene, and thereby alerting the driver to the accident.

The account conflicted with earlier reports suggesting that an auto had plunged into the train from the overpass, causing the derailment.

Police said an automobile was

crushed beneath the wreckage, but it was unclear where the car was parked at the time of the accident. They said it was probably sitting along the tracks, not on the overpass.

Police spokesman Joachim Lindenberg told ARD television that the auto belonged to a rail employee who was working along the tracks. He said that anyone close to the accident could not have survived. Neither Rathert nor Deutsche Bahn immediately confirmed that account.

Views of the wreckage offered no clear clues as to what caused the accident. The nose of the rear engine stuck from under the bridge, and three derailed cars were piled on each other beneath the collapsed overpass.

At least 13 cars had derailed. The force of the pile-up pushed cars meters high into the air along an embankment.

## Transport chaos overshadows French World Cup preparations

PARIS (Reuters) - France faced transport chaos yesterday just one week before the start of the World Cup, with striking pilots grounding Air France flights for the third consecutive day and rail workers planning their own walkout.

As the biggest soccer event in history neared, police also detained three suspected Islamic fundamentalists in a fresh security crackdown to prevent terrorist attacks during the finals.

Air France pilots, promising to fight to the bitter end over plans to cut their wages, were due to hold talks with management late yesterday, but neither side looked ready for compromise.

"The strike is continuing. It will probably be long, it will probably be tough. Its effects will probably be devastating for the accounts and the image of the company," the chairman of the main SNPL pilots' union, Jean-Charles Corbet, told reporters.

France's Socialist-led government, increasingly worried that the reputation of the whole country will be tarnished by the dis-

pute, have accused the pilots of holding the World Cup hostage.

"I hope things can be sorted out quickly, in the interests of the airline, its workers and the country as the World Cup nears," Transport Minister Jean-Claude Gayssot told reporters.

The employers' association, the CNPF, issued a statement slamming the damage to France's image.

"The CNPF expresses its indignation... at a situation which is undermining the competitiveness of the French economy as it becomes more international and tarnishes France's image on the eve of the world sporting event it is hosting," it said.

Train drivers also raised the stakes by threatening their own pay strikes.

The Independent General Federation of Train Drivers (FGAAC), which represents 30 percent of drivers, called a strike from June 9, the eve of the World Cup, to June 11 and said it could prolong the action if not satisfied with pay negotiations.

Other unions representing train

drivers on the national network, including the powerful Communist-led CGT union, plan a one-day strike for June 5. CGT leaders, however, have signaled reluctance to disrupt the World Cup itself, which runs from June 10 to July 12.

Metro and suburban train drivers in Paris were also due to stage a 24-hour strike over pay and conditions today.

The World Cup, involving teams from 32 countries, will be played in 10 cities across France.

Air France, the official World Cup carrier, has guaranteed it will fly the teams, but had been redirecting other passengers traveling inside France onto trains.

The SNPL pilots union, which represents around 60% of Air France's 3,200 pilots, ordered a mass walkout from Monday over plans to cut pilots' salaries by 15% in return for share options in the state-controlled company.

Air France chairman Jean-Cyril Spinetta yesterday refused to heed union calls to axe the wage cuts, insisting that the airline needed

savings of 500 million francs (\$84 million) a year from its pilots to fund an ambitious investment program.

Air France said it could guarantee only 17% of long-haul flights and 30% of other flights from Paris's main Charles-de-Gaulle airport yesterday.

Earlier yesterday, French police arrested three people of Arab origin in a crackdown on suspected Islamic terrorist activists, Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement said.

The dawn raids followed a pan-European swoop last week, when 78 people were taken into custody in five countries after warnings that Algerian rebel networks were planning attacks to coincide with the World Cup.

France, shaken by 1995 wave of bomb attacks which killed eight people and injured more than 170 others, has boosted security around the country in the run-up to the Cup, sending out hundreds of heavily-armed troops to guard stations, ports, airports and key tourist sites.

## Habibie: No date for Indonesian elections

By ANDREW MARSHALL

JAKARTA (Reuters) - Indonesia's President Jusuf Habibie signaled yesterday he would not relinquish power before the end of 1999 and did not rule out making a bid to lead the crisis-ridden nation into the next millennium.

Habibie set out a timetable for reform in an interview with CNN broadcast yesterday and said Indonesia would not be in a position to elect a new president until the end of 1999.

"Let's say at the end of next year we will then have a new parliament, we will have new members of the people's assembly, and we

will be then in a position to elect a new president and a new vice president," he said.

Habibie had been vice president under former leader Suharto but last month replaced his long-time patron, who resigned after months of protests over the stricken economy.

Asked if he would seek another term as president, Habibie said he represented a tradition of people "who always do everything without giving up, as long it is for the benefit of society."

His "main mission" would be accomplished once he had delivered peaceful political and economic reform.

But with Indonesia's economy facing a contraction of at least 10

percent this year amid soaring inflation, mass unemployment and a persistently weak rupiah, analysts say it could take years for the country to fully recover.

Habibie said taking care of the poor was more important than making hasty decisions on who should lead the country.

"They don't care who will be the president or the vice president or who will be the ministers," he said. "They only care for their rice bowls, and for their home, to live in peace and have a future for their children."

Habibie said new laws allowing more political parties and giving extra freedoms would be drafted by August and put in place by the

end of the year.

He said a special meeting of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) would then be held to set a date for parliamentary elections. A change of president would then require another session of the MPR, which usually meets once every five years.

Several opposition figures have said Habibie is dragging his feet on political reform and they want elections sooner to make a clean break with the Suharto era.



Afghan earthquake relief effort

Villagers carry an injured person on a stretcher up a hill so a relief helicopter can airlift him out of the quake-stricken village of Angaryan yesterday. Bad weather and a lack of access and transportation slowed the relief and rescue operation in the region, where as many as 5,000 Afghans were killed in the massive earthquake. (AP)

### IRAN

Continued from Page 6

The appetite for both is clearly high: Kiosk owners say they can barely keep *Jameh* on the stands, even though it publishes twice a day — and three times on a good news day.

But so are the dangers: Angered by the newspaper's openness, a mob stormed *Jameh's* provincial office in the northern city of Rasht twice in May, breaking windows and equipment, beating up staff and seizing copies of the paper.

It is also facing growing challenges from political conservatives and even other papers. Recently, the conservative *Islamic Republic* newspaper charged *Jameh* with "deviating remarks violating Iran's ideals," "abusing the open climate of dialogue" and "opportunism."

*Jameh* is not the only new voice in Iran. More than a quarter of the country's 991 licensed newspapers, magazines and periodicals have been authorized to operate over the past nine months. Tehran alone has 21 newspapers. Many older publications are also covering once untouchable topics and offering outlets for diverse opinions.

But more than any other paper, *Jameh* is a microcosm of the change in Iran's political climate — and in many of Tehran's revolutionaries a generation after they toppled the monarchy.

"I, as a revolutionary man, do not believe today in revolution but in evolution," said Hamid Jalali, *Jameh's* robust and ever-cheerful

publisher, who is already talking of London and New York bureaus while admitting that resources are slim.

"After struggling for five years, I've grown from having an ideological viewpoint to believing in pluralism."

*Jameh*, which is Parsi for "society," pledges to offer a forum for all society's sectors.

Editor Waizin comes from a long line of Shiite clergymen and was so active against Iran's last shah that he spent a year in prison. Today he advocates a meritocracy rather than a theocracy.

"I don't believe the clergy alone should run Iran. The clergy can be part of political activity, but participation should be based on merit," he said.

The paper's approach to news is also original. A recent issue led with a story that police would no longer stop young unmarried males and females caught together unless a complaint was filed. The cover photo was an arty shot of Iranian men doing a traditional exercise-dance outdoors.

"We're not clichéd," Jalali said in the modest Tehran home that has been converted into editorial offices for *Jameh's* staff of 45 reporters.

Added Waizin: "We want to show a new face of Islam that focuses on peaceful solutions, dialogue and development, not on conflict. We know we're in a transition, and we would like to see it pass without violence."

Although they are Khatami

backers, *Jameh's* editors have also criticized the new leadership. Not everyone agrees that the new

openness is in Iran's interest. An angry controversy has erupted over just how much freedom the press should have, illustrating the fears as well as the hopes as the Islamic Republic moves into a new era.

Skeptics and conservatives contend that Iran will crumble into chaos with so many freedoms and so many media outlets.

"This period of freedom is like a premature child that needs to be watched carefully," worried Kiannars Saberi, Iran's leading satirist, whose pen name is Golagha.

"My fear is that using freedom to extremes will result in chaos, not stability, that will be followed by new limitations." He predicted that *Jameh* and others like it are now "riding a wave" and will be short-lived.

A backlash is already visible. An aide to Iran's supreme leader, the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, recently attacked the "poisonous pens" of some newspapers and threatened to "blacken the whole lives" of those responsible.

Iran's press, which has always reflected the country's diverse and often squabbling political factions, still has a long way to go by Western standards. And because most politicians depend on official subsidies to help pay for newspaper, the government has strong leverage over the print media.

*Jameh's* editors claim that nothing could alter their commitment. Nor are they afraid they are contributing to future chaos. "We know Iran's democracy is today a mine field," Waizin said. "We like to think of ourselves as the mine finders." (LA Times)

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# Sleeping with the Nazi enemy

When Hitler's troops stormed Europe, Edith Hahn didn't hide; she married one of the soldiers.

By CHIP CREWS

WASHINGTON — A wartime romance: Beautiful Red Cross worker meets handsome tourist, who quickly becomes smitten. The world is exploding, and after his holiday he sends her a stream of letters and telegrams and ultimately returns to propose marriage. But here Edith Hahn's story takes a strange twist.

It was Munich, 1942, and the young Jewish woman was living a secret, using identification papers given to her by a Christian friend. Her suitor, Werner Vetter, was a member of the Nazi Party.

After resisting his increasingly urgent appeals, she decided to trust her instincts, even at the risk of her life, and told him the truth. "He said at once, 'It doesn't matter,'" she recalls.

"He's impulsive," she adds, smiling at the memory. "I was young, and — such things happen."

It was one of the odder turns in Hahn's altogether improbable life, which is abundant with narrow escapes and unforeseen providence. "The most dramatic chapters of that life are chronicled in the Edith

Hahn Archive, a collection of letters, photographs and documents that was sold at auction recently and has now been donated to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

An Israeli, the 84-year-old Hahn came to Washington last week with her London-based daughter, Angela Schluter, to mark the occasion.

Hahn was born in 1914 and grew up in Vienna, the daughter of middle-class parents who ran a restaurant. In 1933 she began to study law but five years later was forced to abandon it after the Nazis took control of Austria and restricted Jews' activities.

Her father had died, and she and her mother were ordered into a ghetto, issued Jewish IDs and given the middle name Sara, which was assigned to all Jewish women.

In 1941 Hahn was sent into forced labor in Germany, first picking asparagus and later working at a factory making cardboard cartons. She began a correspondence with Pepi, her boyfriend of nine years, who remained in Vienna. It is these letters — she often wrote more than once a day, and Pepi wasn't one to throw things away — that form the

nucleus of the Hahn archive.

When she speaks of the long-ago romance, she giggles shyly and looks down. "To him I wrote only the truth," she says. "It was more like a diary."

Her mother sent urgent word that she was being shipped east, and Hahn got permission to make an emergency visit home. The idea was that the two would go together — she says no one knew for sure where Jews were being sent. Families were kept together "to make a pretense of resettling," she adds. "Really it was to kill everything of the family at once."

"But when I came, she was not there. I was devastated — can you imagine?"

Her mother had been sent ahead, and the two never saw each other again.

Hahn, ordered east herself, went underground instead. Pepi was no help; he lived with his Gentile mother, who considered Hahn's presence a threat. But other friends pitched in with a meal here, a couple of nights' lodging there.

"It was not a very nice way to live," she says. "I did not eat regularly."

Then a friend, Christine Denner, gave Hahn her own identification papers. For the duration of the war, Hahn, who quickly moved to Munich, was known as Gretel Denner.

Enter Vetter, who so far looks like the hero of the tale. But it's not that simple: Though he did indeed love Hahn and protect her, he also deeply believed the Nazi theories about Jews. He still does.

"That's not Nazism to him," says Schluter, 53, a product of the marriage. "It's a gospel truth."

A few months ago, she adds, she received a 28-page letter from him trying to convince her, among other things, that Jewish blood is "stronger" than Aryan blood and taints it when the two are combined.

"He's a bit mad," she concludes dismissively.

In a ceremony last week at the museum, Hahn said, "He was so much in love that I was sure he would not hand me over to the Gestapo, so I married him."

She lived with him in Brandenburg, near Berlin. She also lived with constant fear: "I was a wanted person for three years," she says. "Though it appears she didn't

love her husband the way he loved her, she was fond of him. Schluter clarifies: "Pepi was the love of her life."

Her mother makes no protest. Though reluctant at first, Vetter ultimately went along with Hahn's wish to have a child. There is speculation that Schluter may have been the only Jewish baby born in a Nazi hospital.

Ultimately Vetter was drafted and sent to the eastern front. He wound up in a Soviet POW camp but he was released in 1947.

The marriage quickly broke up. "He wanted to marry his first wife again," she says. "He has had five marriages."

Schluter breaks in: "Seven, sweetheart."

There was no thought of a reunion with Pepi, for Hahn had concluded he could never leave his mother. At her request, he returned her letters.

After the war, she worked as a lawyer and judge, living in the Soviet sector of Germany. After the secret police attempted to enlist her to spy on colleagues in 1948, she fled to London, where her sister lived.

"The only thing valuable I took to England was my daughter," she says.

Instead of welcoming Hahn, her sister's husband feared she would be a financial drain.

"This man applied to the Home Office to have my mother deported to East Germany," Schluter says, the anger still fresh.

"My sister said, 'You're breaking up my marriage,'" Hahn adds. But she wasn't going back.

She took a succession of jobs — cleaning, cooking, designing corsets — and in 1957 married again, this time to Fred Beer, a Jew from Vienna. The union, she says, was happy and lasted 30 years.

After his death, she moved to Israel.

"She was only 72 when he died, and she decides she needs an adventure," Schluter reports with mock exasperation. "This is what I live with!"

It was the daughter's idea that the archive might be of historical interest. She suggested taking it to Sotheby's in London, where it was auctioned last December.

Dalek Faith, a Holocaust survivor and former member of the US

Holocaust Memorial Council, and former transportation secretary Drew Lewis purchased it for \$140,000, more than four times the estimated price. They in turn donated it to the museum.

The museum's director of collections, David Marwell, welcomed the acquisition. "Her story is extremely unusual," he says. "I would imagine it is unique."

Noting that "there's an absolute closing window of opportunity here" as Holocaust survivors grow older, he says he hopes news of the archive will attract additional offerings.

The sale gives Hahn, who lives alone, a financial cushion and will pay for a pair of cataract operations. Having brought her saga up to the present day, she giggles and says in summation, "I can't believe it!"

She's entitled to be angry about the harm that was done to her, the years of terror. She insists she's not.

"How can I be angry when I have survived such a thing? It's a miracle I have survived. I think of the people who helped me."

Washington Post

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## The conflicts over conversion

The calm of a truce tends to be illusory, like the eye of a storm. The Neeman Commission was an attempt to negotiate a truce between the religious parties and the Reform and Conservative movements. The objective was ambitious – not only to remove the conversion battle from the courts and the Knesset, but to build an institution in common to all three streams of Jewish practice.

Though the unsigned truce may already be unraveling, the creation of a joint conversion studies institute has provided hope that the spirit of the Neeman Commission will not be abandoned.

After a short period of quiet, both sides seem to be gearing up to continue where they left off before the commission's historic effort. The Conservative movement has refused to withdraw its court case seeking to force the government to recognize its conversions performed here, as are conversions performed abroad. For its part, United Torah Judaism is threatening to leave the government if a number of its legislative demands are not met, including passage of the conversion bill.

Both sides have ample grounds to blame the other for leaving themselves no choice. The Conservative and Reform claim that because the Chief Rabbinate did not accept the Neeman Commission recommendations, they cannot be bound by them. And the religious parties feel compelled to push for legislation to enforce the status quo so long as there are court cases that could force the government to recognize domestic non-Orthodox conversions.

The fact that each side has a case to be made within the Knesset and the courts, however, does not mean that these are the appropriate arenas for a resolution of the conflict. Ironically, this is particularly true for those who advocate separation of religion and state.

The Conservative and Reform movements argue for separating religion and state in Israel and for ending the Orthodox monopoly over official religious authorities. These objectives, whatever their merits, are somewhat in conflict.

The more the non-Orthodox movements fight for legal recognition, the more they are recognizing the role of the Chief Rabbinate and government involvement in religious affairs. Given the taint that political involvement has spread over Orthodoxy in the eyes of many Israelis, it is not clear why it makes sense for the Reform and Conservatives to jump in this fray as well.

The Neeman Commission actually afforded the non-Orthodox movements a way around this dilemma, by creating a semi-official framework for cooperation among the three streams. Given

this, it is puzzling and disappointing that the Conservative movement chose to boycott the first meetings of the board of the new Neeman-inspired joint conversion institute.

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, who is president of Israel's Conservative movement, explained that participation in the institute could be considered by the courts as agreement to the Neeman Commission report, which in turn could undermine its pending court case. The Reform movement, however, which also has pending cases, participated fully in the meetings.

Even though the Conservative boycott is expected to end by next week's scheduled meeting of the institute board, the point has been made that winning legal battles takes priority over making a real-world experiment in pluralism work.

The lesson of the last bitter fight over the conversion bill is that most Israelis oppose religious legislation, but they sympathize most with the Reform and Conservative when those movements back consensual approaches, such as the Neeman Commission. The way to build on that sympathy is to concentrate on establishing Reform and Conservative congregations in Israel, rather than on resuscitating legal battles.

By the same token, the government will be making a big mistake if it capitulates to haredi pressure and supports a new bill to pass the conversion bill. This will be true even if the government tries to sweeten the pill by wrapping it in a legislative version of the Neeman Commission report. Though legislating a joint conversion studies institute might seem like a step forward in recognizing non-Orthodox movements, it is not worth resurrecting the explosive conversion bill.

At the same time, threats to abandon the joint institute altogether will serve no one's interest.

The whole point of the Neeman Commission was to take the conversion issue out of the Knesset and the courts. Attempts to legislate cooperation in a joint institute, let alone the conversion bill, go in exactly the opposite direction.

Even the Chief Rabbinate seems to be getting the message that the real action is on the ground, out of the political limelight. In the past three years, according to the Chief Rabbinate, the number of conversion schools has almost tripled, leading to a 50 percent increase in conversions in 1997, with a similar increase predicted for this year.

Despite the Orthodox monopoly over the religious establishment, there is nothing stopping the Reform and Conservative movements from increasing their recognition where it counts, among people throughout Israel in their own communities.

## BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!



## The real danger

URI DAN  
DENNIS EISENBERG

In a voice laden with doom, Yosef (Tommy) Lapid, of raucous TV and radio fame, warned Israelis a week ago of a second Holocaust facing them within a decade. The thrust of his grim warning of what lays ahead is that if Israel's leaders do not bow humbly right here and now to the Palestinians, in abject surrender to their demands, the end of Israel is a dead certainty.

In effect, Lapid told his audience, "The news in the year 2008 will thunder out to the rest of the world that Israel has been wiped out by a nuclear bomb." The world's main concern would be that the Mediterranean will be polluted with radioactivity.

If Mr. Lapid wasn't so obsessed with passing an instant opinion without pause for breath, he would surely remember that the wars against Israel were not provoked by the actions of distant countries such as Pakistan.

The catalyst for the outbreak of wars has invariably been terrorist attacks launched by Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank. It happened for the first time on November 30, 1947, 24 hours after the UN voted to create the Jewish state. Convinced that terrorism softened up the Jews for a successful invasion her neighbors were prompted to attack.

It happened again in 1956, when Egypt and Jordan encouraged terrorists to attack the Jews in such volume that Israel was forced to go to war.

A similar situation faced the Jewish state in 1967, when acts of Fatah terror encouraged president Nasser of Egypt to threaten the Jews, believing – as did the Syrians and even the Jordanians – that the country was ready to fall.

And why did Israel invade Lebanon in 1982? Never mind blaming Ariel Sharon and Menachem Begin for having a blood lust. The growing weight of Yasser Arafat's nascent army

the present nuclear shock waves sweeping the world to launch unbridled attacks on the present democratically elected government would pause a moment and think like sane, logical individuals, they would realize that the macho games being played on the Indian subcontinent have nothing to do with Israel.

Israeli intelligence officials have long known that both countries were diverting considerable resources to become nuclear powers. Never mind that in so doing they deprived their starving citizens of the very essentials of life.

The hysterical nightmare fantasies being expounded by Lapid and his ilk, in the guise of "logic," is that Pakistan will pass on nuclear weapons secrets to Iran and maybe even Iraq. Either or both will wipe out Israel with one of their bombs.

Come off it, Mr. Modern Day prophet. The rulers of Pakistan have no intention of letting Iran or

Iraq become nuclear powers. They are aware of the unpredictable minds of the men who rule the lands on their own western borders. Might not one of them turn against Pakistan one day?

For the Lapidists of this world, and others whose personal agenda is to lash at the policy of standing firm in defending the right of Israel to define its own defense needs, they are ready to whip up hysteria to warn of Israel facing nuclear annihilation within a decade. Their mantra is simple: "Make concessions by noon. Give him 13%, 15% more land."

While we're at it, why not 125%? That will save Israel from a nuclear holocaust, Mr. Lapid.

You tell us that you faced the Holocaust in Budapest. As you seem to have remembered nothing and forgotten everything, permit us to remind you why was there a Holocaust:

It was because the Jews did not have a land of their own. No borders, no army, nowhere they could stand tall and proud and defend themselves.

How can Israel best resist destruction in the future? By pitifully bowing to the demands of a man who makes no secret of his wish to wipe out the Jewish state?

There is only one way, and you will surely agree with this if you give the matter some measured thought: And that is not to surrender a millimeter of your precious, beautiful land to a man who is only interested in creating the conditions for all-out war the moment he has built up his armed forces, which he is doing right now. Every inch of land increases his strength, his grip on soil from which he plans and dreams of creating a Palestinian state and sending any surviving Jews – dead or alive – into or across the Mediterranean Sea.

That is the real danger, not a nuclear Pakistan.

That is the real danger, not a nuclear Pakistan.

## The View From the East

DAUD KUTTAB

## Poison in the air

One of the most difficult tasks journalists have to attempt to reflect what the "public" thinks. Short of accurate public opinion polls, a good journalist has to master something intangible, "the feel of the street."

In order not to fall prey to unrepresentative opinions, I usually refrain from giving much weight to the opinions of relatives and friends who might not reflect an average Palestinian. But every now and then you hear something from someone close to you and you say to yourself: There is more to this than meets the eye.

This is what happened to me last Sunday. I was driving with my family and, as usual, I had the news on the car radio. The first report that day on Israel Radio concerned a scuffle in East Jerusalem. The news announcer read out the statistics as if they were sports scores: Four Israeli settlers, four Palestinians and two Israeli policemen were hurt, the announcer concluded.

My nine-year old son, Bishara, who normally hates to listen to the news, shouted out in happiness, as if his favorite basketball team had scored the winning basket.

Surprised by his reaction, I tried to find out from him why he reacted that way? "Well," he responded matter-of-factly, "normally it is only the Palestinians who are getting hurt or their homes being destroyed."

His response upset me, after all Bishara last year starred in the Palestinian version of *Sesame Street* with Israel. The joint project was aimed at teaching tolerance and mutual respect.

But before I had a chance to speak, my oldest daughter Tamara retorted better than I could have.

## The promises and goodwill of September 1993 seem far behind us

"Why do you say that, they are humans and many of them are nice, you shouldn't talk like that," she told him.

That was the end of the discussion, but while not an objective public opinion poll, my son's innocent utterance spoke volumes to me. My attempts to shelter my children and teach them tolerance seem to have failed. The political atmosphere has penetrated even to children and even to those children from whom one would expect a greater tolerance level.

COMPARED to the situation a few years ago, Palestinian confidence in the peace process has deteriorated to a very low and dangerous level.

If my unscientific poll is 50% accurate, then we are destined to face many more upsets before we can expect any long-term change in our situation and attitudes. The promises and goodwill of September 1993 seem so far behind us. In many ways, one can paint the situation now blacker than it was then.

True, we have no more curfews, and fewer Palestinian boys are being shot to death by Israeli soldiers, but the animosity that exists is very scary considering that many of us have said, and continue to say, that the peace process is irreversible.

My unscientific poll notwithstanding, proper research is being conducted as to the reaction of Palestinian and Israeli children to the *Shara'a Simsim/Rehov Simsim* television program.

This local version of *Sesame Street* which was broadcast by Israel Educational Television and Al Quds Educational Television has shown the difficulties of Israeli and Palestinian children in accepting concepts of tolerance with the other.

Research done by Palestinian educator Dr. Cairo Arafat has shown that in all the Palestinian areas where children's attitudes were surveyed, the one Palestinian city where the least amount of tolerance to Israelis was registered was in Jerusalem.

So maybe the reaction of my son, who lives in Jerusalem, does not deviate so much from the other children with whom he goes to school.

What does all this mean? Should we stop peace education efforts? I don't think so. But we must understand that a serious attempt to remove hostile acts that poison the air is a prerequisite for a culture of peace.

Without an improvement in the political atmosphere, all the work for peace conducted by so many well-intentioned people, will unfortunately go to waste.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TOO FAR TOO FAST

Sir, – Yossi Beilin's article, "Bibi in a bubble," May 19, blames our prime minister for the stalemate of the peace process. He says, "the US contends that the PLO had fulfilled its expectation whereas Israel has rejected its proposal."

In this article, as in many others, one gets the impression that only Israel is to be blamed for the present situation and that the Palestinians have fulfilled all their commitments. Beilin never mentions that the Palestinians have not

changed their covenant, did not hand over murderers who killed Israelis, have an armed force almost twice as large as agreed and many other obligations that they are committed to by the Oslo agreements.

This approach is typical to many people in the opposition whose main aim is to topple the present government but not to help in the peace process.

Had I been a Palestinian I would continue to violate the agreement,

not make any concessions and hope that the opposition would take over and give up whatever was asked.

This approach of Beilin and his comrades is counterproductive even from their point of view. Here I quote Shimon Peres who said that in the peace process, "he went too far and too fast."

PROF. D. SHALITEL

Jerusalem.

### DREAM WORLD

Sir, – State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat has stated unequivocally that the IDF establishment of a security cordon between Judea, Samaria and Gaza and Israel has been a failure. Tens of thousands of Palestinians illegally cross the "Green Line" daily and Israeli Arab criminals find safe haven in the PA areas.

Once again, the Israeli Left lives in a dream world. Those advocates of complete separation refuse to

admit that there can be no such thing. The Comptroller's report noted that terrorists easily crossed the Green Line on Israeli buses or in private vehicles carrying their weapons, drugs and stolen cars. The economic damage from this illegal traffic is enormous.

We are one of the most foolish peoples on earth if we adhere to suggestions from the US and the Israeli Left as to how to maintain our security and our viability as a

state. The fact that there is economic pressure from the world to give the Palestinians a state can only mean the risks to Israel will be untenable. Without adherence to the already guaranteed stipulations to Oslo I and II, Israel will not be able to maintain her own borders.

TOBY WILLIG

Jerusalem.

### RUBBER GLOVES

Sir, – It amuses and bemuses me that there is a complaint about the use of rubber gloves by the police during a confrontation (May 25.)

My dentist never approaches me, when I sit in the dental chair, without first putting on a pair of rubber gloves and a face mask. I consider this a double protective device because my dentist has no

way of knowing if I am HIV positive, nor do I have a way of knowing if he is HIV positive. Both of us are protected by his caution.

So too both the demonstrators and the police were protected by the police putting on rubber gloves. Instead of complaining, the demonstrators should help us

all to overcome this scourge called AIDS and relieve the growing number of service people who are finding it necessary to wear rubber gloves when performing their duties.

SEYMOUR BRODSKY

Jerusalem.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On June 4, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Arab Executive appealed to the public to boycott all Palestine celebrations of the 68th birthday of His Majesty's King George, to indicate their dissatisfaction with the current British policy.

50 years ago: On June 4, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that UN diplomats estimated it would take a week to 10 days to put the

cease-fire into effect. Two Egyptian bombers which raided Tel Aviv were shot down, and a third was hit. Jewish ground forces isolated an Egyptian strip in the Negev. Britain banned the transfer from the Cyprus detention camps of all men between the ages of 18 and 35.

25 years ago: On June 4, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that three Israeli pilots – Gideon

Magen, 37, Pinhas Nahmani, 30, and Boaz Eitan, 24 – held as prisoners of war by Syria for three years, were returned to Israel. In return, Israel released 40 Syrians, including five high-ranking officers, and granted amnesty to Kamal Assad Kanji, the Druse leader who in May 1972 was sentenced to 25 years for spying on behalf of Syria.

Alexander Zvielli



# Weekender



In 'Welcome to Sarajevo,' Stephen Dillane (left) plays an English journalist whose involvement in the Yugoslav civil war goes beyond mere reporting.

## Packing a punch

British actor Stephen Dillane brings the horror of civil war to the silver screen in 'Welcome to Sarajevo'

By MATT WOLF

Move over Ralph Fiennes and Daniel Day-Lewis. The British theater has spawned yet another good-looking and intelligent leading man for the movies. If you've attended the theater in London over the past decade or so, you've had a good chance of spotting Stephen Dillane, an alumnus of such varied plays and productions as *Dancing At Lughnasa*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Angels In America* and, most recently, *Hamlet*, inheriting Christopher Walken's Broadway role. In the 1994-95 season, he spent eight months playing the title role in Peter Hall's four-hour-plus production of *Hamlet*. Despite rave reviews, the experience knocked him out. "Tired was not the word," he says. In the spring, he moves on to the Hamlet-esque role of Chekhov's

Uncle Vanya, opening in March at London's Young Vic Theater. Linus Roache (*Priest*, *The Wings of the Dove*) is being talked up as a possible costar. Otherwise, Dillane's appearance as TV journalist Michael Henderson in Michael Winterbottom's film about the war in Bosnia may seem to have come out of the blue. No matter. After *Welcome to Sarajevo*, his days of anonymity are numbered. The 40-year-old actor provides the cool, compassionate heart to the year's most bruising film. In a recent interview, he spoke to The Associated Press about his feelings towards the film and the career that has preceded it. On his initial response to the role: "I didn't want to do it at all. I thought, 'This really shouldn't be done.' At that point, it seemed like Hollywood: heroic English journalist saves lucky little Bosnian girl from terrible slaughter and

brings her back to England which stands for all things true and good. It all looked like a horrible package on the page." And now: "I knew Michael [Winterbottom] would have the right eye on it, that his interest is not in the easy, smooth, contained emotions. I think it is an honest film; to me, it packs a huge punch." On film versus theater acting: "Movies are an entirely separate process from the very, very beginning. From your very first relationship with the script, the first time you read it, it's different — you're looking for different things. "Particularly in film, it's a great pleasure to have confidence in your director because then you can give up your desire to control. Most of the time in theater and TV, you're consciously keeping hold of some bit. But the worst script in the world can be the most wonderful film." On other film work to date, including the Sandra Bullock flop

*Stolen Hearts* (also known as *Two If By Sea*): "That came on the back of a Lord Snowdon picture in *Vanity Fair* and paid for the break I needed after *Hamlet*. I began as a Brooklyn street guy and scam artist and ended up being the resident English baddie." Next is *Firelight*, with Lia Williams, which marks the directing debut of Oscar-nominated screenwriter William Nicholson (*Shadowlands*): "It's romantic period *Jane Eyre* kind of stuff, I'm told. I don't do the appropriate costume and facial expressions." On deciding to become an actor: "After university" — Exeter, where he majored in history and politics — "I had no idea what to do and became a journalist, and no, I never raced to a fire in my life. I progressed from doing golden weddings and ended up being education correspondent for the Croydon Advertiser Group [in south London]. "I read an interview with actor

Trevor Eve about his switch from architecture to acting and thought, 'I'll do that, really.' That was the practical spur. The imaginative spur was reading Peter Brook's *The Empty Space* and *Hamlet* together while I was a journalist. Those two things together made me light up inside somewhere." On going Hollywood: "I don't want to concentrate on that. There are so many good things happening over here in England — and not just in England, but in Europe. I don't really want an American agent, to be honest. I think one agent is enough to deal with." On juggling working life with domestic life as partner to actress Naomi Wirthner and father to their one child, with a second on the way: "I didn't work for quite a while after *Sarajevo*. I just couldn't take work interviews very seriously. It used to be quite difficult to go between the two worlds of home and work. Now, I'm better at just accepting them." (AP)

## Man, Oman!

By SONIE LEMOR

Faced by the ever-growing demand and ever-decreasing supply of worthy nightclubs, it is no surprise that Oman 17 is such a success. Located smack dab in the middle of Talpiot, Jerusalem's industrial zone, the inter-continental-style night club attracts any number of young trendies at weekends. The beat of the current Techno tracks can be felt even from the distant parking spot you may have found. The only thing to do is follow the groove to the very long line of trendies anxiously awaiting entry to the fabulous club. Most of the crowd are regulars, addicted to the fun of the Oman. Being an Oman junkie myself, I almost never miss a Thursday night. The enormous crowd of the well-dressed and trendy is controlled by well-groomed and quite large bouncers. At the "gate of approval" you can usually find one of the owners checking to see that the crowd inside is well selected. After you have passed the cool test, by being expensively dressed or relatively good-looking, you squeeze into the tight dark passage to the cashiers, whom you'll find on your left. After paying your dues to the overly attractive cashiers, you will find yourself faced by several stairs leading into the club. The atmosphere reeks of hormones and aftershave, the sound booms, the lights flash, and numerous clubbers writhe and gyrate on the dance floor. To the left of the entrance are disproportionately large stairs leading to one of the club's three bars. From this bar you can look over the DJ's shoulder to see the state-of-the-art sound system and computerized light controls. Past the sound booth is another set of stairs, leading down to another bar and the crossroad between the two dance areas. The first one — and larger one — plays dance, House, Trance, Techno or ambient music, depending on the DJ. Directly across from the DJ booth is a large stage. In the early hours of the night, patrons make themselves at home, putting on an amateur version of MTV's *The Grind*. But as the night gets hotter, the intensely sexy house dancers take over the stage. They put on quite a show, dancing a lot and wearing very little. The shows are usually quite riveting and tend to cause people to forget that they came to the club to dance. "The Oman is the ultimate. It is one of the best clubs I've been to," states DJ Dima. "When the Ministry of Sound [DJs from London] did the tour of Israel, Oman 17 created the most successful combination of show, atmosphere, and sound of the entire tour." The second room is also worth checking out. The music there is geared to a different crowd. You can groove to the hits of the '80s and '90s, as well as contemporary mainstream and alternative rock. The whole room seems to be moving with you as people dance out the week's frustrations. "I like the combination of the two rooms," says Tali, an art student. "You can change your mind about what club you want to be in without actually leaving the premises. It is like having two different clubs at once." Oman 17 is one of several projects run by the club owners, who also provide a variety of music services to private functions. Oman 17 is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 12:30 a.m. until the people go home. Entrance fees range from NIS 40 to NIS 50.

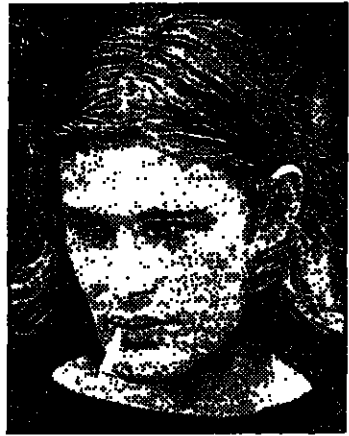
Oman 17, 17 Oman Street, Talpiot, Jerusalem

AFTER HOURS

## Music on my mind

Actor and model Alon Rinehorn talks about his favorite musicians

On first glance at Alon Rinehorn, it is easy to see why he is such a commodity in the business of beauty. He was discovered by Yoram Loewenstein at the age of 16 when he did his first TV commercial for Galil cider. Ever since, he hasn't been able to keep the cameras away. When he arrived in New York several years ago to see the city and work as a waiter, it took only a few weeks for him to be discovered by a modeling agency with offers to fly him to Milan and Japan. Back home, Rinehorn has been working for the last three years on a Channel 1 project for teenagers called *Talita*. He also portrays a celebrity in the TV series *Café Paris*. "I would like to try a role that is different," he says. "Someone with a handicap or somebody who is ugly. When you are good-looking, you always get cast in a beautiful role."



Two years ago, Rinehorn played Joseph in a local production of *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* which ran for seven months. "The stage and film are two totally different entities," he says. "I love them both for different reasons. Acting for me is like self-exploration. To understand myself and through this psychology, the character that I play." According to Rinehorn, modeling is not any less demanding on a psychological level. His success, he says, is due to the fact that he is able to portray a character as a model, which adds another dimension to the photograph. Creative by nature, he feels that a lot of his inspiration comes from music. Here he talks about his favorite musicians. **1. Roger Waters** "Roger Waters [of Pink Floyd] has to be the greatest artist that I can imagine. He is the ultimate in creativity. He gives the perfect combination of text and music to provide an experience of understanding of the highest degree. Every word of a song is an integral part of the music. He uses his voice and expression to take you on a journey. He touches you, relaxes you, excites you, annoys you — he is everything. When you hear him, you experience a full range of emotions. I don't believe in idolizing artists but I worship Roger Waters." **2. Sheva** "The members of this band are geniuses. Their music is almost prayer. They have an amazing connection to nature, which I have a deep respect for. The music they create is so real, you just know they have a great understanding of things." **3. Ehud Banai** "He sings from the heart, from the soul. I have always been drawn to this quality in an artist. I don't like things that are pure technique, but good technique that is used to speak from the heart, that comes from feelings, I have the highest respect for. Ehud Banai does this. He has amazing songs that I can relate to on a complete level. He speaks about relationships, his life, and things that we deal with every day." **4. Total Eclipse** "They haven't released anything new for a long time, but everything up to now has been great. I like trance music. I like to listen to it anywhere. I usually listen to it on a Walkman when I am alone. It has been a long time since I have danced to trance until 4 a.m., but I find it very relaxing. Total Eclipse has a way of making you feel centered and focused. It disconnects you from outside influences and connects you to yourself. Like a type of meditation." **5. Friends of Natasha** "I really like this band because they remind me of Pink Floyd. I think they are also very real in what they have to say about life. In any creative work — from acting to music to painting — the most important thing is to be real and truthful." — Sonie Lemor

## Hot tips

By DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

### Tel Aviv

Tonight's Big Bash is that happening everybody's been waiting for: the Third International Dance Festival, otherwise known as Dance and Levis 1998. This mega-pop party features Israeli DJs and terrific UK bands 808 State, Juno Reactor and above all, Prodigy. Dance and sing away the night from 5 p.m., with different acts roughly every two hours. Just make sure not to dance too hard and fall in the water at Hayarkon Park, Ganai Yehoshua. The rest of the music scene takes a low profile in Tel Aviv tonight, with the comforting regular spots offering standard pleasures: Beit Lessin holds its New Rock evening in the basement, starting at 10:30 p.m. (34 Weizmann, off Kikar Hamedina), while the city's champion of jazz, Camelot, hosts a Black and Blues evening of rhythm and blues, funk and soul.

Hasmita Theater up in Jaffa features *Avoda Zara* (Idolatry), an ambitious comedy about foreign workers taking control over the Zionist dream, at 9 p.m. Mazal Hadagim 8, (03) 681-2126. The Haifa Theater's *Othello* is at Tel Aviv's ZOA House, 8:30 p.m.

### Jerusalem

The daily freebies always spice up the Israel Festival. There are truly lovely events tonight that are not to be missed: Michaela Harari and her flamenco dance troupe perform on the plaza of the Jerusalem Theater at 7:45 p.m. Hang on and don't fall asleep! Starting at 11:15 p.m., the Roman Kunsman jazz quintet jams in the foyer. Next on the list is Shviti. Doron Rafaeli and Noam David play drums and percussion instruments, while dance/actress Aden Cohen does her thing. At Habama Theater, 4 Yad Haurizin St., the Talpiot Industrial Zone. Show begins at 10 p.m. (02) 673-3814. Among many interesting lectures being offered tonight is "Walter Benjamin and the Experience of WWII," in English by Prof. Martin Jay, from UC Berkeley. (As if Benjamin doesn't get enough attention in Israel!) This takes place at the Hebrew University, Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Einstein Square, at 8 p.m. Clearly, the most serious activity in the Holy City tonight is the

Jerusalem Historic Pub Tour, for pub-crawlers of ages 19-35 (a Hamagshimim event). Starts at 8:30 p.m., call (02) 561-9233.

### And Points Beyond

And the repertory theaters are traveling. The Khan's powerful and colorful *The Virgin of Ludmir* shows up in Beersheba tonight at the Beersheba Theater on Zelman Shazar Boulevard. (07) 230-820. Ashdod gets Gesher's *Village* a local nostalgia play by Joshua Sobol, at the Ashdod Yad Lebanon on Rechov Hasiti. (07) 854-4167. Music for the burbs includes the intrepid Ben Artzi in Holon, at the Chevrolet, which starts at 9 p.m. Eran Tzur performs "Stolen Waters" tonight in Netanya, at Muzza at 10 p.m.

### Television

There may actually be too much fun on TV tonight to go out at all: Channel 1 (ITV) shows the 1980 Woody Allen film *Stardust Memories*, starting at 9:30. Even if you're not a Woody fan, watch it so that you can stay awake for the real prize at 11:50, mine and everyone's favorite *The Frisco Kid*, with a very young Gene Wilder and an ever-appealing Harrison Ford, also in knee-pants. The subject of this gem is described best by its Hebrew translated title: "Rabbi Avraham in the Wild West."

## Spiritual Battle



### ISRAEL FESTIVAL REVIEW

By URY EPPSTEIN

Soprano Kathleen Battle felt most at home with the spirituals. In these one could best enjoy her voice's ingratiating softness, radiant brightness even in the highest notes, and natural, profound expressiveness.

### KATHLEEN BATTLE ICC May 31

This is more than can be said about the rest of the programme, a hodge-podge of unrelated pieces designed to showcase her versatility. Though noticeably deliberate and forced, her rendering of Spanish songs by Granados and Turina had exuberance and temperament. The Hugo Wolf and Faure songs were performed with

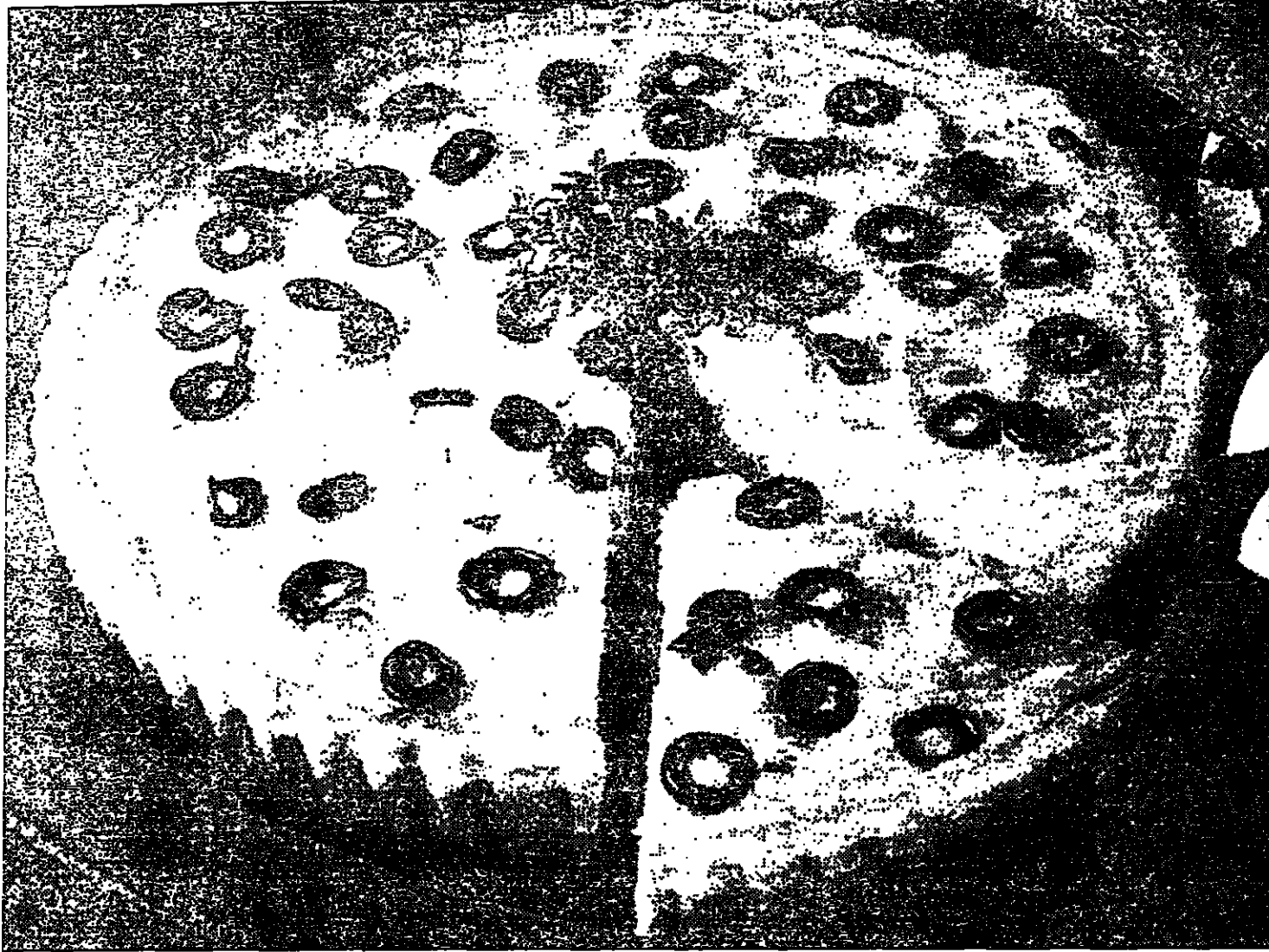
remarkable subtlety and appropriate introversion, with the required meed of playfulness in Wolf's "I have a Beloved One Living in Panna." The Handel and Rossini arias lacked in dramatic expression and dramatic in merely tentative coloraturas. However, lack of communication may certainly be blamed on the hall whose monster size is grossly unfair to solo recitalists. J.J. Penna at the piano was a collaborator, though not particularly distinguished accompanist.

### TODAY AT THE FESTIVAL

**Jerusalem Theater** Sherover — Pilobolus dance, repertory evening, 5 and 9 p.m. **Heary Crown** — world premiere, *Song of Songs*, Ra'anana Symphonette, 8:30 p.m. **Rebecca Crown** — The Right Size theater, *Do You Come Here Often*, 9 p.m. **Plaza** — Circus, magic and clown shows for the kids, 6 p.m. **Flamenco Fiesta**, dance and music, 7:45 p.m.; four-handed classical piano, 9 p.m. (all free). **Foyer** — clarinet and piano duo, 8 p.m.; Roman Kunsman jazz quintet, 11:15 (all free). **Jerusalem International Convention Center** Sao Paulo Ballet, Z and De Repente, 9 p.m.



# Weekender Food & Drink



## Sweet-talking onions

By GREG PATENT

Boisterous when raw, onions turn mellow, rich, and even so sweet when caramelized. Onions are among the world's most pungent foods, capable of taking your breath (and your friends) away if eaten raw. But when they are cooked a bit, onions start losing that sharp flavor. And when cooked to the point that their natural sugars caramelize, the transformation goes even further. The onions darken to a deep golden-brown color and take on an interesting sweetness.

Caramelizing isn't difficult, but it does take a little time, a watchful eye, and a good attitude about stirring frequently. It is worth the effort, though, because this simple process can change an ordinary recipe into an extraordinary one.

**CARAMELIZED ONIONS**  
To caramelize a larger quantity of onions (4 to 8 cups), use a large Dutch oven. You won't need additional olive oil.

1 1/2 tsp. olive oil  
cooking spray  
3 cups vertically sliced onion (sweet, yellow, white or red onion)

Heat oil in a 30cm. nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat. Add sliced onion and cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Continue cooking, stirring frequently; it is important to keep the onions moving.

After 10 minutes, the onions begin to soften and release their liquid. Keep stirring. After 15 minutes, the onions begin to take on a golden color, but they're not quite done yet. Stir them for another five minutes until the onions are a deep golden brown. (Makes 1 cup.)

**CHICKEN AND RICE WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS**

1 1/2 tsp. olive oil  
1 tsp. grated lemon rind  
1 tsp. finely chopped fresh rosemary  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
3 garlic cloves, crushed  
4 100 gr. skinned, boned chicken thighs  
cooking spray  
2 cups chicken broth  
1/2 cup dry white wine  
3 cups caramelized onions (about 8 cups uncooked)  
1 cup uncooked long-grain rice  
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 1 tsp. dried thyme  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2 zucchini, quartered lengthwise and cut into 5 cm. slices  
4 lemon wedges  
thyme sprigs (optional)

Combine first 6 ingredients in a small bowl and rub evenly over chicken. Cover and chill 1 hour.



Preheat oven to 175°. Place a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat until hot. Add the chicken and cook 4 minutes on each side or until browned. Remove chicken from skillet. Add broth and wine to skillet, scraping skillet to loosen browned bits. Add the caramelized onions, rice, thyme, and 1/2 tsp. salt. Add the chicken and zucchini to skillet, nestling them into rice mixture. Bring mixture to a boil. Remove from heat and wrap handle of skillet with foil. Cover and bake at 175° for 20 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Serve with lemon wedges and garnish with thyme sprigs, if desired. (Serves 4.)

**PIZZA WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS, FETA AND OLIVES**

This pizza is a variation on a

classic dish from the South of France called pissaladiere. Our version omits the original's anchovies.

1 package dry yeast (about 2 1/2 teaspoons)  
1/2 tsp. sugar  
1/2 cup warm water  
1/2 cup cool water  
1 Tbsp. low-fat milk  
1 tsp. olive oil  
2 cups flour  
1/2 tsp. salt, divided  
cooking spray  
1 Tbsp. cornmeal  
2 cups caramelized onions (about 5 cups uncooked)  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
1 garlic clove, minced  
1 cup crumbled feta cheese  
1/2 cup coarsely chopped pitted olives

Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water in a small bowl and

let stand 5 minutes. Stir in cool water, milk and olive oil.

Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups; level with a knife. Place flour and 1/4 tsp. salt in a food processor and pulse 2 times or until blended.

With processor on, slowly add yeast mixture through food chute and process until dough forms a ball. Process dough an additional minute.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface, and knead lightly 4 to 5 times.

Place dough in a large bowl coated with cooking spray, turning to coat top. Cover dough and let rise in a warm place (30°), free from drafts, for 1 hour or until doubled in bulk.

Preheat oven to 230°.

Punch dough down, cover and let rest 15 minutes. Roll dough into a 35cm. circle on a lightly floured surface. Place dough on a 38cm. pizza pan or baking sheet sprinkled with cornmeal.

Combine caramelized onions, 1/4 tsp. salt, pepper and garlic.

Spread onion mixture over dough. Sprinkle feta and olives over onion mixture. Bake at 230° for 18 minutes or until browned. (Serves 6.)

**PASTA WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS, MUSHROOMS, AND BELL PEPPER**

1 Tbsp. olive oil  
cooking spray  
3 cups sliced mushrooms  
2 cups julienned red bell pepper  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
2 cups caramelized onions (about 8 cups uncooked)  
1 cup chicken or vegetable broth  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. black pepper  
1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 1 tsp. dried oregano  
8 cups hot cooked pasta (about 1 1/2 kg. uncooked bow tie pasta)  
oregano sprigs (optional)

Heat olive oil in a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat. Add sliced mushrooms and bell pepper and saute 4 minutes. Add minced garlic and saute 30 seconds. Add caramelized onions, broth, salt, black pepper, and red pepper and bring to a simmer. Remove from heat and stir in sour cream and oregano.

Serve vegetables over pasta and garnish with oregano sprigs, if desired. (Serves 6.)

**CARAMELIZED-ONION CUSTARDS**

1 cup chopped caramelized onions, cooled (about 3 cups uncooked)  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg  
2 large eggs  
2 large egg whites



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

## Phyllis's Tips

150gr. package sell for NIS 20.

**Ski and cook at the same time (good)**

Strauss has developed a new version of its popular Ski cheese, especially for cheesecake, burkas and other baked goods. The cheese was developed to retain its moisture content during the heating process and is drier and less salty than the regular cheese. It also is very tasty and contains only 9% fat. 250gr. sells for NIS 4.21.

### CHEESE QUICHE

Boursin cheese and Strauss Ski cheese for baking combine to create a delicious (but rich) quiche.

for the crust:

1 1/2 cups whole wheat or part whole wheat and part white flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
75 gr. cold butter, cut into small chunks  
1 egg yolk  
1/2 container yogurt or eshel

for the filling:

1 package Boursin with black pepper  
2 packages Ski for cooking and baking  
3 eggs  
1/2 cup buttermilk or cream (optional)  
1 Tbsp. fresh thyme leaves (or 1 1/2 tsp. dried)  
2-3 sprigs of dill, chopped

Place the flour and salt in a bowl and cut in the butter. Use your hands to create coarse crumbs by rubbing the mixture together. In a separate small dish, whisk together the egg yolk and yogurt or eshel with a fork and add it to the crumbs.

Work mixture together with your hands until it forms a ball of dough that comes away from the sides of the bowl cleanly. Wrap dough in plastic wrap, chill 10 minutes and then press into a 22cm. pie plate. Flute the edges if desired. Using a fork, pierce the sides and bottom of the dough so it won't rise. Bake

10 minutes in a preheated 180°C oven.

In the meantime, mix together all the ingredients for the filling in a blender or, preferably, a food processor. Pour into the crust and bake 25 minutes or until the top is browned and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Like a soufflé, the quiche will rise during baking and fall during cooling. But it still tastes great. (Serves 6.)

### Elite's cakes (avoid)

Sometimes Elite comes up with some great ideas, new packaging materials and yummy sweets. In the cake department, however, it leaves a lot to be desired. The last Elite marble cake I received was vile. It tasted so artificial and had such a bitter undertaste that I was embarrassed to serve it. The chocolate chip cake was just plain bad.

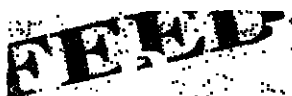
Now the two come with a blue plastic cake dish, billed as "an exciting and exclusive design." I offered it to my maid, but she didn't want it. NIS 24.95 for two cakes and the serving dish, while supplies last.

### Ruffles have ridges (avoid)

Yes they do. And most of the time they taste pretty good, but the new pizza-flavored Ruffles are an exception. It's bad enough that there are grill-flavored Ruffles, onion Ruffles and taco Ruffles. It's positively revolting that there are ketchup-flavored Ruffles. But now the manufacturers are trying to sell us a potato that tastes like pizza.

I'd rather have my pizza taste like pizza, and my potato chips taste like real potato chips. I'm also of the opinion that it's wrong to educate kids to eat something that tastes like something it's not.

So now it's a toss up as to which is worse - the ketchup-flavored or the pizza-flavored potato chips. Just to make sure, I'd avoid them both. A 40gr. package costs NIS 2.80 and a 100gr. package sells for NIS 5.60.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

There are so many different types of soy sauce here. What kind is best to use?

- Lara Sevana, Herzliya

The best kind of soy sauce to use is imported. Quality soy sauce is a wonderful product; it is aged in wooden kegs for a year before bottling. It is made with soybeans, wheat, salt and water. Domestic soy sauce is a chemical product, which takes just hours to create. For those who are allergic to wheat, there are some kinds of soy sauce that do not contain it, but these are more difficult to obtain. Make sure to read the label and only purchase those types with the ingredients I mentioned.

I used baking powder and my cake came out flat and heavy. Is it possible that the baking powder was spoiled? How can I know before it is too late?

- Cynthia Bailis, Jerusalem

There is a good chance that the baking powder was stale. Next time, if you have a question about it, pour 1/2 cup of hot water over 1/2 tsp. of baking powder. If the baking powder doesn't bubble up, it is probably not fresh.

Are french fries healthy? Since they are made with potatoes aren't the potatoes healthy? Do they retain their nutrients after frying?

- Eli Lato, Ganei Tikva

French fries taste good, but I wouldn't give them that many points in the health department. First of all, the potatoes are peeled, which eliminates their fiber and a good share of their vitamins and minerals. Second, commercial french fries are often soaked in cold water to remove some of their starch, resulting in the loss of water-soluble vitamins.

While homemade french fries are usually fried in fresh oil, commercial french fries are generally fried in oil which has been reused countless times throughout the day. Oil heated at high temperatures for long periods of time releases free radicals which are harmful to our health. And heat is another element that lowers nutritional value.

My children are practically addicted to soft drinks, claiming that they are the only way to satisfy a real summer thirst. As far as I know, it is much better to drink water, both health wise and for thirst. Please help solve our family dilemma. Who is right?

- Barbara Wilder, Ramat Aviv

You are. Water is much better for quenching thirst for several reasons. First of all, soft drinks contain chemicals that you would be better off not ingesting. Second they contain copious amounts of sugar (there are about 12 tsp. in an average can of cola), which is bad for the teeth, the waistline and the rest of the body. Finally, our small intestine needs extra water to digest all that sugar, so a half hour after consuming a soft drink, you'll be thirstier than you were before.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 31, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: phyllisfood@jpost.co.il.

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

360 gr. can evaporated milk  
cooking spray

Preheat oven to 160°.

Combine all ingredients except cooking spray in a large bowl. Spoon onion mixture into 6 custard cups coated with cooking spray.

Place the custard cups in a 33x23cm. baking pan and add hot water to pan to a depth of 2 1/2 cm. Bake at 160° for 1 hour or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. (Serves 6.)

**RISOTTO WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS**

4-5 cups chicken or vegetable broth  
1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil  
1/2 cup finely chopped shallots  
1 1/2 cups short-grain rice  
1 cup caramelized onions (about 3 cups uncooked)  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
1/2 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley  
1/2 cup grated fresh Parmesan cheese

Bring the

broth to a simmer in a medium-sized saucepan (do not boil). Keep the broth warm over low heat.

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add shallots and saute 1 minute. Add rice and

cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly.

Add 1/2 cup broth and cook until liquid is nearly absorbed, stirring constantly. Add remaining broth, 1/2 cup at a time, stirring constantly until each portion of broth is absorbed before adding the next.

Stir in caramelized onions, salt, and pepper and cook 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in parsley and cheese. (Serves 5.)

Creators  
Syndicate, Inc.

## Carmelization basics: Going for the gold

All onions become sweeter with caramelization. We used yellow onions to test these recipes, although white and red varieties work well, too.

You can cut the onions any way you like, but they're prettiest vertically sliced. Slice the onion in half vertically. Place cut side down on cutting board and slice into thin slivers.

450 gr. onions yields about 3 cups vertically sliced onion.

3 cups sliced onion yield about 1 cup caramelized onion.

8 cups sliced onion yield about 2 1/2 to 3 cups caramelized onion.

The onions should be a deep golden brown, but not burned. So watch them closely.

Onions need lots of space to caramelize, so make sure your pan is large enough. Use a 30cm. skillet to caramelize 3 cups of onions; use a Dutch oven to caramelize 4 cups or more.

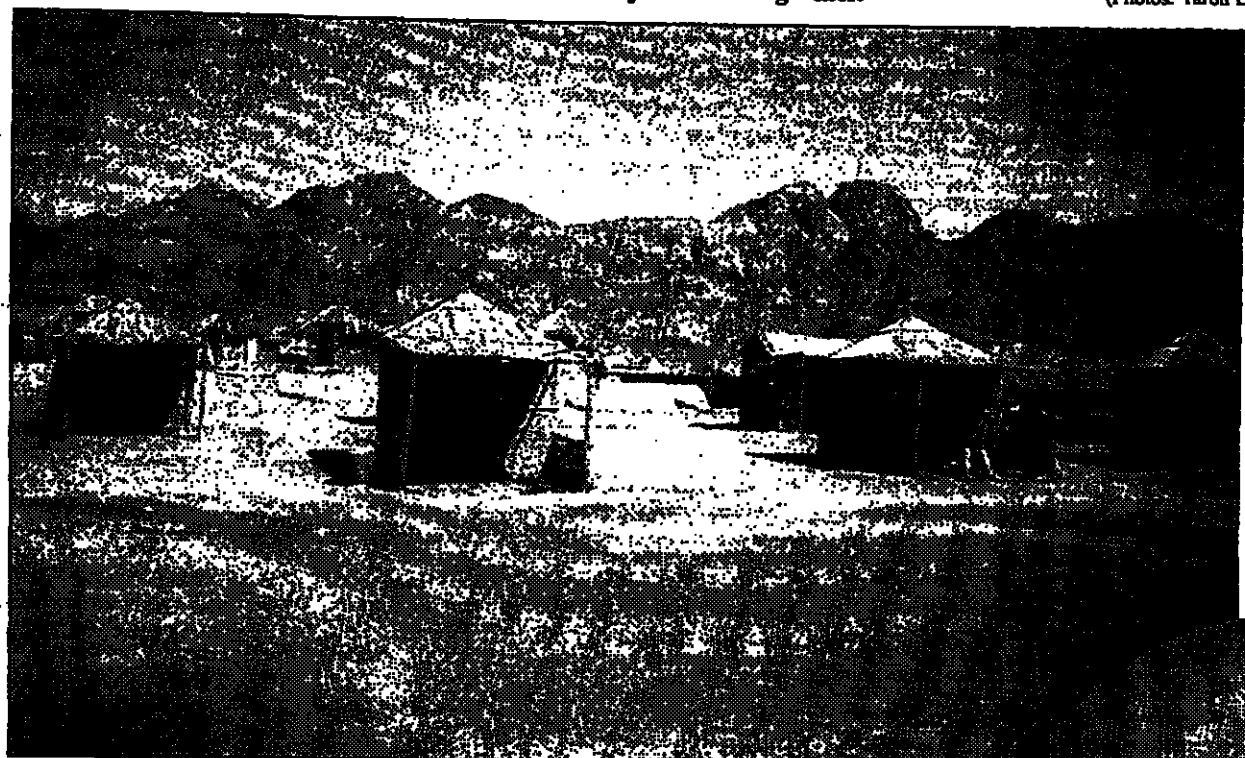
Creators Syndicate, Inc.

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(Clockwise from above) The bulk of Sinai's Israeli tourists are content to park their weary bodies on a beach towel for three days to a week, watching the waves lap the seemingly endless shoreline; Some ambitious travelers, however, choose to hike through the unique desert landscape, rich with natural springs and water holes; The real Sinai experience involves sleeping on the beach in straw huts - sans electricity and running water. (Photos: Yaron Levin)



## A sojourn in Sinai

**By TRACY FISKE**  
Some holidays like Pessah, Shavuot, or Succot, and the Taba crossing is swelling with thousands of young locals flocking to Sinai. Whenever they can scrounge together a few days of vacation from school or work for some much-needed R&R, these shoe-string travelers - with lightly packed knapsacks and sleeping bags in tow - are running for the border.

But why, a patriot might ask, is our youth willing to stand in long lines at the crossings, pay the NIS 57 departure tax, and change their money for Egyptian pounds when they can holiday on Israeli soil in Eilat? After all, the southern seaside resort boasts the same warm climate, the same brilliant sun, the same sparkling sea, sandy beaches and hazy backdrop of reddish-brown mountains. But let's face it, Eilat is not exactly the antidote for civilization. It's a tourist trap crammed with hotels, bars, restaurants and shopping malls. The beaches are crowded, the architecture detracts from rather than complements the natural beauty of the area and the horizon is adulterated with cargo ships.

Sinai, stretching hundreds of miles and much less built up, is a haven from the chaos.

Some ambitious travelers are headed for Saint Catherine's Monastery, where there is a choice of numerous hikes that can last several days, most of which require the accompaniment of a Beduin guide. This unique desert landscape is rich with natural springs and water holes.

The bulk of Sinai's Israeli tourists, however, are content parking their weary bodies on a beach towel for three days to a week, watching the waves lap the seemingly endless shoreline.

CROSSING both sides of the border can be a bit of a nightmare during high season. I prefer to take a midnight bus to Eilat from Tel Aviv, which gets you to the border by about 5 a.m. and ahead of most of the crowds.

The Egyptians abandoned a dilapidated shack-of-a-border-crossing for a brand-new, modern building. The image makeover extends to the employees themselves, who are much friendlier than they were a few years ago. No visa is required to travel the Sinai coast, though you will need one if you plan to

visit other parts of Egypt.

Catching a cab from Taba is easy, but not cheap. A slew of Beduin drivers awaits your arrival and, during the holidays at least, attempts to bargain are futile. The fares start at 30 Egyptian pounds a person (one pound - NIS 1.13), increasing the further south your destination.

While there are buses that make stops all the way to the southernmost town of Sharm el Sheikh (three and a half hours from the border), they are erratic and unscheduled. But most people aren't headed as far south as Sharm, known for its excellent diving and quiet beaches.

More popular destinations among Israelis include the camps at Ras Hasatan (45 minutes away, for the mature and ultra mellow); Dahab (two hours away, for a younger set of serious partyers); and Nuweiba/Tarabin (about an hour away, for those seeking a compromise between the above two extremes).

While there is a handful of proper hotels along the coast, the real Sinai experience involves sleeping on the beach in Beduin- or Sudanese-run

camp. These camps vary in size and quality, but most are a colony of simple straw huts (*hooshor*) centered around a café furnished with rugs, pillows, short-legged tables and backgammon sets.

Bathrooms - and I use the term loosely - are housed in a separate building. Crouching over a hole to do your business, as well as taking cold showers, are an unfortunate reality for some. But as one optimistic traveler put it, "After India, this feels like four stars."

AFTER listening to friends rave about Ras Hasatan for the past few years, I recently decided to spend a four-day weekend there. Four camps are situated on this lovely lagoon, complete with its own long reef - a colorful underwater playground teeming with countless varieties of strange and beautiful fish and plant life. A small diving center rents out equipment for snorkeling and deep-sea diving.

Even when all the camps are full, Ras Hasatan still feels laid-back and away-from-it-all. Each camp seems to attract its own type of clientele.

One has especially big huts sitting so close to the sea, the waves crash onto the door steps. Hammocks, bulging with hippies, hang in the porches. Nude bathing is acceptable, if not the norm.

The next camp over offers a big leap in comfort and conveniences. Its ivy-covered huts, which rent for about NIS 65-NIS 80, are large, sturdy and built on platforms. There are several lounge chairs outside each hut. There are even - gasp - electric lights inside, though toilets and showers are in a separate building. This camp attracts young families with small children.

The camp I slept at was far more simple and, at least for me, more in the spirit of a Sinai vacation. The huts were small and inexpensive - 30 pounds. At night, the only light seen from the beach was the flickering of candles. A warm group of Hebrew-speaking Beduins ran

the camp, which attracted university students, many of whom were repeat customers.

In the evenings small impromptu jam sessions took place in the café, where some of the more daring got up and danced for everyone. There is no need to take out money during your entire stay, as you can run a tab for all food and drinks purchased. Obviously, budget in for lots of mineral water, as drinking from the tap is inviting disaster.

Sitting on the beach flipping through a magazine or a book for a few days is pure bliss, as are swimming, snorkeling, eating and napping.

But for those who demand a bit more excitement, there are jeep trips into the mountains and Beduin-led hikes through some of the area's starkly beautiful *wadis*.

The countdown to the sweltering weather is under way, but there is still time to snatch a vacation down in the peninsula.

It's sheer self-inflicted pampering. And how often do we get that chance?

## Day Tripper

By Haim Shapiro

## The road newly traveled

Jerusalem is the kind of city where even the so-called secondary attractions would be major attractions somewhere else.

Take, for example, the series of Hellenistic tombs in the Kidron Valley, the most spectacular of which is known as the Tomb of Absalom. For years they were neglected and ignored. Recently, though, they have been cleaned up as part of a general effort to make that section of Jerusalem more attractive.

Along the road that goes below the Temple Mount on the east, there are a series of new observation points and a promenade, close enough to get a good look at the grandeur of the tombs, but not so close that you pay attention to the damage they have suffered over the centuries.

On the other side of the valley, on the edge of the immense Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, there is the new *Kohanim* Path and Observation Post. According to Jewish law, *kohanim*, members of the priestly caste, are forbidden to enter a cemetery. This new path, however, just skirts the cemetery, enabling *kohanim* to view the area. It is sufficiently impressive to attract other visitors as well.

The best excursion may be to start above the cemetery, at the parking area just below the Seven Arches (formerly the Inter-Continental Hotel), and stroll leisurely down the Mount of

Olives, with the cemetery on your left. If you have a good guide, he or she can point out the wealth of graves belonging to a vast assortment of personalities who have figured in Jewish and Zionist history. Even without such a guide, though, you cannot help but be impressed by the ancient tombstones, some so worn they are no longer legible.

The best way to see the Mount of Olives is to take a taxi to the Seven Arches and then enjoy the walk, which is mostly downhill. When you reach the bottom of the valley, make your way to the left, following another newly restored path, which is known as The Last Way. The path is named for the last journey taken by Jesus. This path eventually leads to the church of St. Peter in Gallicantu. It may be a far more authentic recreation of the the road taken by Jesus than the Via Dolorosa in the Old City, which became popular in the Middle Ages. The name of the church refers to Jesus' prophecy that Peter would reject him before the cock crowed three times.

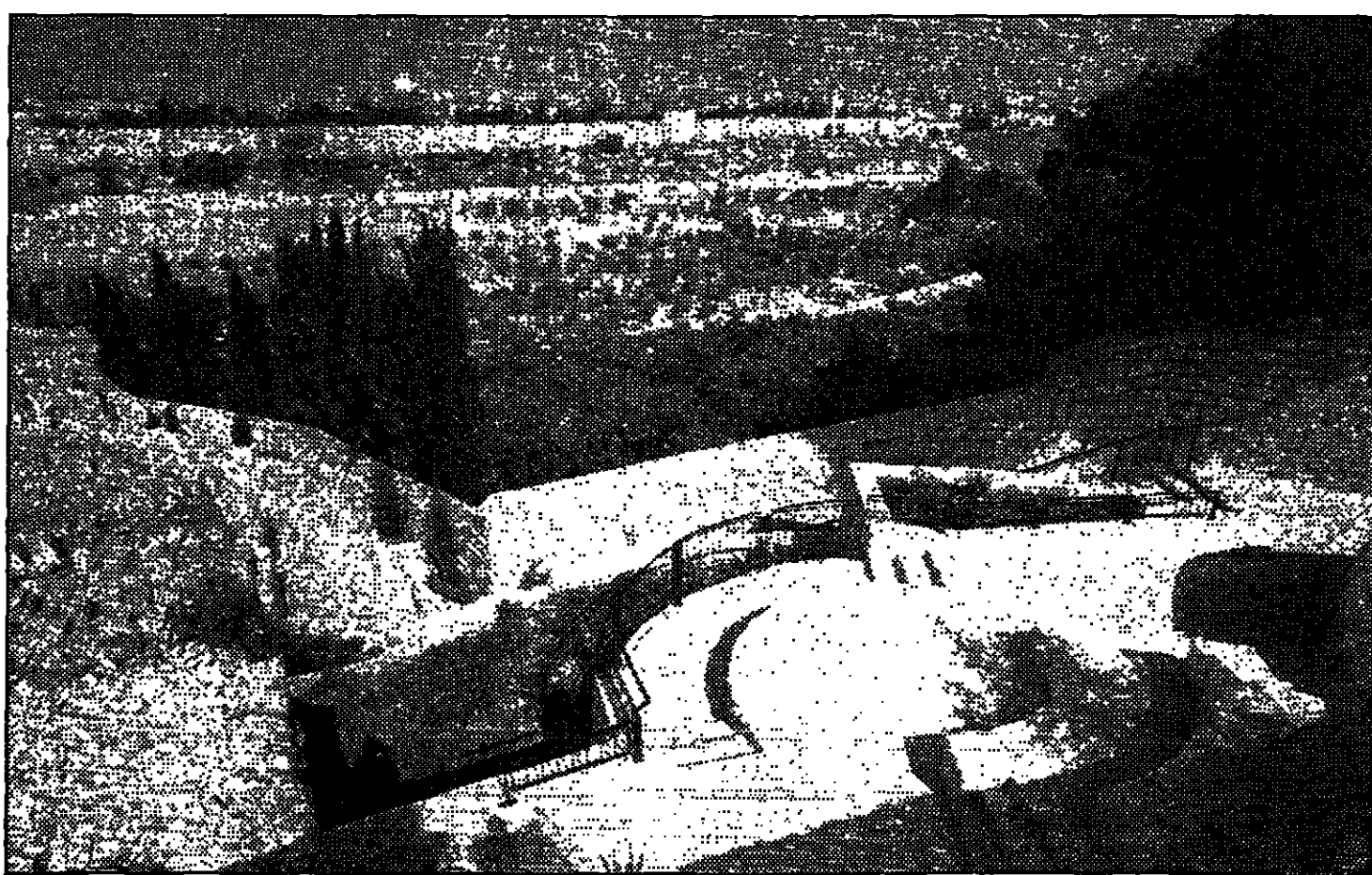
IF YOU climb up towards the Dung Gate, you have the option of making a side visit to the Shiloah (Siloam) Spring, another site that has been recently cleaned and restored. For the adventurous, the perfect summer excursion is to go through the tunnel built during Hezekiah's

reign. Be sure to bring flashlights, or at least candles, and wear shoes and trousers that can get wet.

This tunnel of Hezekiah is a relatively "modern" one, however. There is a far older one, dating back to the period of the Patriarchs, which had originally channeled the water of the spring. That tunnel is currently being excavated and should be open to visitors some time this summer.

Whether or not you visit the Shiloah Spring, the best way back to public transportation or taxis is via the Dung Gate. This area is also being spruced up. The Temple Mount excavations now have areas of grass and shade to make them more pleasant to visit in hot weather. Across the road from the excavations, where there was a heap of rubble for many years, the foundations of the ancient buildings have been restored, grass planted and an ancient gateway reopened for pedestrians.

On the day I visited the area, I walked out of the Dung Gate to view an impromptu bar mitzva celebration. The members of the family had brought snacks, fresh fruit and vegetables, and were enjoying them on the shady lawn. One family member had brought a drum and was playing. Within minutes, a nearby Arab vendor joined in, beating the drum himself as the family sang and danced.



The 'Kohanim' Path and Observation Point enables 'kohanim,' forbidden by Jewish law from entering a cemetery, to view the gravestones on the Mount of Olives. (Debbie Hill)



## Weekender Leisure



(Left) A piano destroyed by the Egyptians at Ramat Rahel during the War of Independence portrays 'the senselessness of war' by Rolf Kneller (below); (above) A portrait of 'the pride and fall of Greece' by Rolf Kneller

to Palestine in 1939. As a British soldier in the North African campaign, he was badly wounded and nearly lost his leg.

Before joining the army, he was privileged to work with the hugely influential motion picture photographer and still portraitist Helmar Lerski (1871-1956).

"I adopted his way of seeing human beings, and working with him, I lost my fear of getting close to a face," he recalls.

With the reverence of a young student for a great teacher, Kneller says: "The proudest moment of my life came when Lerski said, 'Well, Rolf, I think the time has come that you can take a portrait of me.' And he did. Lerski's lasting effect on Kneller prompts him to say, 'To me everything is a portrait. I don't photograph anything that isn't a portrait.'"

So a picture of a toppled Greek column becomes a portrait of "the greatness that was once Greece"; an image of a piano wantonly destroyed by the Egyptians at Ramat Rahel during the War of Independence portrays "the senselessness of war"; and the glowing corona of street light outlining the faces of a young couple draws "a portrait of love."

KNELLER'S YEARS behind a motion-picture camera had a beneficial effect on his still photography. He explains that unlike still film, motion picture film cannot be cropped in the darkroom, so the cameraman must have the complete composition in his frame. Filling out the entire negative with the subject became a good habit that he carried over into all his photography.

Over the years, Kneller, who is now 76, has reflected on the

nature of photography and photographers.

In his section of the *Und sie haben Deutschland verlassen...müssen* (And They Left Germany...They Had To) catalogue to the 1997 Bonn exhibition of the same title, Kneller distinguishes between "looking" as passive and "seeing" as active.

"Everybody looks, but a photographer sees," he explains. "Most people look, press the shutter, and only really see what they have taken when they get the enlargements back."

At the same time a photographer puts something into a frame, Kneller observes, he leaves something else out. That makes the photographer wholly subjective.

And yet "a photograph creates a reality which turns into a 'truth' for the one who looks at it." It's a paradox he cannot solve.

Today, he continues to direct Israel Television's popular science productions. He has a mission: to complete a computer database of his vast archive of historical material.

As resident of Jerusalem who has lived in the same house since 1946, he is especially concerned about preserving his images of the siege of Jerusalem, "a period that only 650,000 Jews went through. These pictures were taken on stolen time, because I was in the fighting."

Your photography questions and comments are welcome. Contact David Brauner, e-mail: [mor-rir@mail.biu.ac.il](mailto:mor-rir@mail.biu.ac.il) (writing "for David" in the subject line) or fax 02-563-7792 or do Photo Archives, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.



David Brauner

## Bridge

### A sleepless night

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer  
Both sides vulnerable

North  
♠ AK 5  
♥ K 10 7  
♦ Q 10 8 6  
♣ Q 6 4

West East  
♠ Q J 10 9 ♠ 8 4 3 2  
♥ A Q 10 ♥ 9 6 5 4 3 2  
♦ - ♦ J  
♣ A J 9 8 7 ♣ 5 3

South  
♠ 7 6  
♥ -  
♦ AK 9 7 5 4 3 2  
♣ K 10 2

West North East South  
2 ♠ double 3 ♥ 6 ♦  
(all pass)

\*three-suited hand, short diamonds, 11-15

Quiz question: West leads the queen of spades. What is the best line of play?

Today's deal features Martin Hoffman, a recent immigrant to Florida.

Hoffman was born in Hungary and survived Auschwitz as a teenager. He went to England after the war and became one of Europe's leading bridge players and authors. A frequent visitor to Israel, Hoffman has been a spokesman for the mental therapy of bridge, which - by submerging his mind in the game's complexity - helped diminish the memories of his tragic youth. Today, he is happy to say, his sleepless nights concern bridge deals, where he searches mentally for the best line of play.

This incessant gnawing at the brain over cardplay errors is a common phobia of top-level players, who become (in their exuberance) perfectionists.

Consider today's deal, where Hoffman was an enthusiastic spectator. West opened the bidding two diamonds, showing a three-suited hand short in diamonds and 11-to-15 points. This is part of the 'Precision' Club system and has the merit of describing the hand in one bid. Sometimes, however, a bid that describes a hand perfectly will backfire if you find yourself on defense and up against a top-notch declarer, who can put the information to his own use.

North doubled the opening bid and East jumped to three hearts (East knew his partner held heart support). South had the final say,

leaping dramatically to six diamonds. West led the queen of spades, which was won in dummy with the king. Declarer drew one round of trumps, and eliminated spades by playing to dummy's ace and ruffing the five of spades. He then exited with the king of clubs. West won the ace of clubs and was endplayed.

His choice was to lead away from the jack of clubs or lead the ace of hearts, which could be ruffed (setting up the king, used to discard a losing club from the South hand).

Hoffman had been watching the deal and became so enchanted with it that it bothered him all evening. "When I went home that night," said Hoffman, "I couldn't sleep. What if East held the jack-of-clubs doubleton? When the king of clubs was taken, West would lead a club and when Declarer played low from dummy, East would win the club to set the contract. Could declarer have improved on his play?" About 2 a.m., Hoffman woke his wife Audrey to tell her he had thought of a better plan.

"Suppose declarer leads to the king of clubs at trick two. West will win the ace and return a spade. Now there's a simple club-heart squeeze. Declarer plays out all his trumps; on the last trump West cannot hold the heart ace and the jack-nine of clubs. The location of the jack of clubs is irrelevant."

"That's lovely, dear," said Mrs. Hoffman. Satisfied, Hoffman went back to sleep, but woke up again an hour later. What if West returned a club instead of a spade? This would break up the squeeze.

"I woke up Audrey again and told her the problem, but she was furious this time. Obviously, she had been satisfied with the previous play. So I went to the refrigerator, and after a chopped liver sandwich I saw the answer. Play the trumps without touching the clubs. The seventh trump will squeeze West in three suits and a spade lead to the ace next will finish him. I was ecstatic and let my wife sleep the rest of the night."

For the connoisseur, the end-position that Hoffman discusses here is exotic, but can be played out on paper. Win the spade lead at trick one and cash seven diamonds. West comes down to two hearts and three clubs. A spade lead to dummy forces West either to bare the ace of hearts (in which case you ruff a heart in hand, setting up the king) or throw a club (in which case you attack clubs, setting up two club tricks).

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by email at [gran@netvision.net.il](mailto:gran@netvision.net.il)

## Chess

### Out for blood

By NIGEL SHORT

The prize for the most blood-thirsty player in the recent Linares super-tournament went to the naturalized Spaniard, Alexei Shirov, who finished second with five splendid victories and three defeats.

A balanced appraisal of his chess talent is hard to make: as Carver, the baddie in the latest James Bond movie put it: "The difference between genius and madness is measured only by success."

With Alexei, the pendulum appears constantly to be swinging between the two. For example, take a look at the position after the following moves: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 b5 6. Bb3 Bc5 7. a4 Rb8 8. c3 d6 9. d4 Bb6 10. Na3 Bg4 11. axb5 axb5 12. Nxb5 0-0. A pawn down, no obvious compensation, what sort of person would voluntarily head for such a position with the black pieces? Alexei Shirov, of course.

His adherence to this clearly dubious (or more accurately, downright unsound) variation cost him first prize when he was thumped by a prepared novelty from Peter Svidler in the penultimate round. Yet overall his results still remain good in this line. Perhaps his understanding is on a higher plane. Certainly his views on the viability of the black set-up are at a marked divergence with just about every other top player.

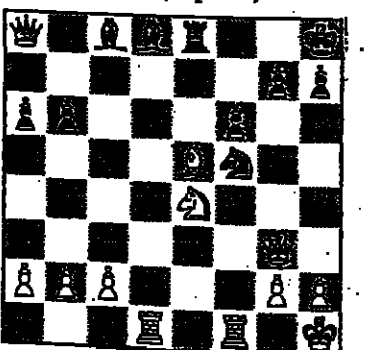
The following was the most brilliant game from Linares. Shirov overlooked several important tactical points during the course of play but still managed to win flawlessly against Veselin Topalov.

White: Shirov  
Black: Topalov  
Linares, 1998

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. Bd3 Qb6 6. Nb3 Qc7 7. Qe2 Nf6 8. Nc3 d6 9. f4 Be7 10. e5. Played without too much deliberation. The text involves a pawn sacrifice. 10... dxe5 11. fxe5 Nf7 12. Bf4 Nc6 13. 0-0 Ndx5 14. Rael Qb6+ 15. Kh1 Nxd3 16. Qxd3 0-0 17. Qg3! White must act quickly to exploit his lead in development oth-

erwise he will just remain material down. 17... Kf8 17... f5 18. Bh6 Rf7 19. Ne4 threatens 20. Nxf6+ 18. Be7 Qa7 19. Na4! Sneaking round on the other side of the board to catch the a8 rook. 19... f6 20. Bb6 Qb8 21. Be7 Qa7 22. Nb6 e5 23. Nxa8 Qxa8. White has more than recouped his initial investment, but the technical task remains formidable due to Black's bishop pair and sturdy pawn center. 24. Rd1 Re8 25. Bd6 Bd8 26. Ne5, nonchalantly played and with out any grasp that he was walking into a minefield. It is, none the less, the strongest move. 26... f6! 27. Ne4 Nd4! Suddenly the White position becomes critical. Shirov is alert to the danger. 28. Bxe5! Nf5! 28... fxe5 29. Nd6 Qc6 30. Qxe5 is crushing.

Black: (Topalov)



White: (Shirov) to play

29. Qg4!! Very surprising, but the only way. If 29. Rxf5 Qxe4! Black wins. (29... Bxf5? 30. Nd6!); or, 29. Qd3 Bb7! 30. Qd7 Bc6 31. Qxf5 Bxe4 and White is busted. 29... Ne3 30. Qh5 Re8 30... Qc6 was more resilient but after 31. Rd6 Qb5 32. Re1! fxe5 33. Ne3! the backrank weakness tells. With four pieces hanging and the knight unable to move due to the mate on g2 it looks like bad news; but there is an answer. 31. Qf3!! Nxd1 32. Nd6 attacking the queen and threatening a smothered mate on f7. 32... Qa7 33. Nxe4 Qd3 34. Nd6. In view of 34... Nxb2 35. Qd5! Rf8 36. Bxb2 gamering a piece, Black resigned.

© Telegraph Group

## Married to the lens

On Camera  
By David Brauner

"When you see Rolf Kneller working behind his camera," a critic wrote of him in 1947, "you have a feeling that he is married to the camera."

Today, Kneller says, "When I was filming, I was not aware of what was going on around me. I was in that lens."

Despite his intensity while working, Kneller never forgot the camera's intrusiveness.

"I went to Haifa to film the funeral of some of the men lost on the destroyer *Eilat* [sunk by

the Egyptians in October 1967]. It was the most gruesome job I ever had to do. I felt so out of place. But you can portray such a horrible, difficult and sad event with consideration, without putting the camera in the face of the people."

Rolf Kneller is one of the few veteran Israeli photographers who successfully blended two careers: as a still photographer of note, and as an award-winning motion picture cameraman.

His cinematography recorded many seminal events in the early years of the state, notably the Eichmann trial. He also made nature films and did documentaries with top showbiz personalities like Frank Sinatra, Danny Kaye and Shelley Winters.

Born in Berlin in 1921, Kneller grew up in Nazi Germany and was forced to leave school at 14.

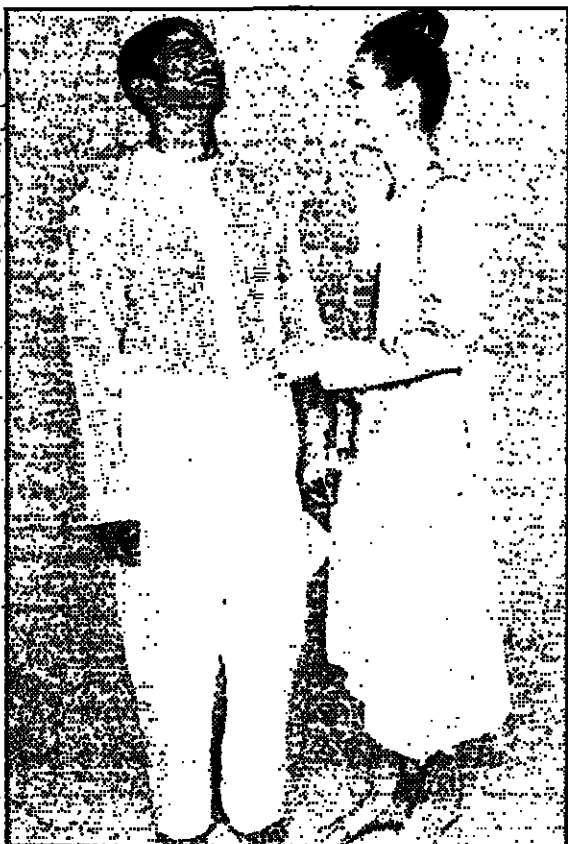
"I didn't have a youth but grew up very quickly," he says. Because he was "good in drawing," his parents sent him to private school for graphic art.

In one of his poster designs he used a cut-out photograph from a newspaper. When he was told not to use the work of others but to take his own photograph, Kneller enrolled in a photography course for "non-Aryans."

"I fell in love with photography, and have had a love affair with [it] ever since," he says.

AS KNELLER puts it, "The Germans did what they did," and he arrived with his Zionist family

## Hanging loose



Local designers Sharon Berman (left) and Doron Ashkenazi (right) are drawing inspiration this season from the free-flowing, fluid designs of India.

While women's clothes tend to be slim and body-defining, menswear - both casual and formal - continues to hang loose. It may be that way to hide a beer belly. Or it may simply be to emphasize the contrast between his and hers.

Take shorts, for instance. Women's shorts are so brief and close-fitting they're barely there. Men, on the other hand, continue to wear Bermudas topped with long, easy-fit tee shirts and polo shirts such as those produced by Next. Or they go in for long, fluid Indian style shirts with loose-fitting vests such as those designed by Doron Ashkenazi, Gershon Bram and Doron Frankfurt.

The Indian influence has caught on in more formal gear, as shown by graduates of the Tel Aviv Design, Communications and Technology School. They will be demonstrating the creativity of the new generation of designers when they parade their own creations in the courtyard of their alma mater on June 8.

Sharon Berman has used a sophisticated mesh fabric for

her free-flowing Indian shirt design, which shows off the torso of the man wearing it while still preserving some of his mystique.

The most ubiquitous of male gear continues to be jeans. Yet even when there is a similarity in design of his and her threads, hers are always sexier. Wrangler's unisex concept has her in near stovetop jeans which taper off at the ankle, while his

jeans are the sloppier variety offering more in the way of comfort than sex appeal.

During the winter, men, especially diplomats and those in the business community, wear suits more often than they did a decade ago. In the hot weather, though, ties and jackets are frequently abandoned and there is a return to what used to be typical Israeli schlock.

It is no wonder so many Israeli designers of menswear are taking their inspiration from India which, like Israel, is a very hot country. The Indians, while spurning Western style jackets and ties, have managed to retain a dignified appearance.

Israelis could well do the same.

### Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman

06/04/1998



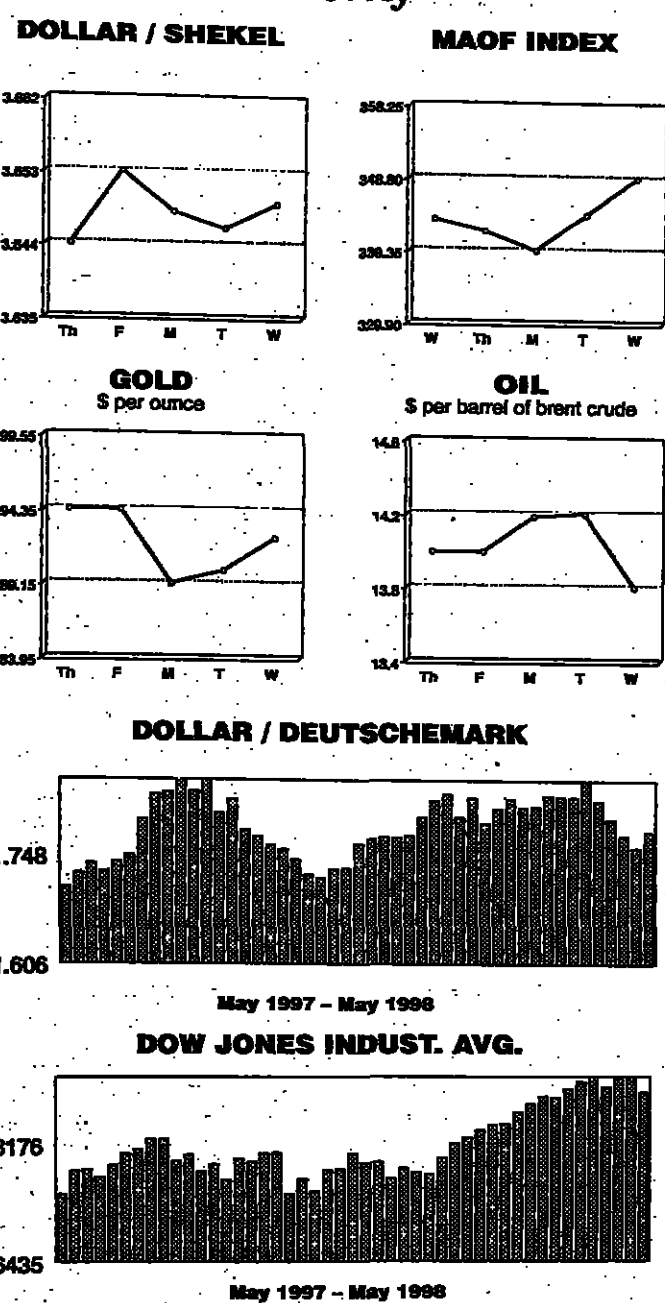
# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday,  
June 4, 1998

15

## MARKETS

in brief



### Polished diamond exports down 16% in May

Exports of polished diamonds totaled \$338 million in May, a 16 percent decline from the \$404m. recorded in the same month last year, according to the latest statistics from the Industry and Trade Ministry.

Since the start of the year, Israel has exported polished diamonds worth \$1.643 billion, compared to \$1.817b. during the same period last year. Unpolished diamond exports slumped 32% to \$291m. in the first five months.

David Harris

### IDF economists: '98 inflation at 2%-3%

Economic forecasts from the defense establishment suggest inflation this year will total two to three percent, well below the government-set target of 7%-10%. The figures also point to economic growth reaching 1%-1.5%.

Israel Discount Bank's economists also published their predictions yesterday, including the suggestion that business sector growth will rally somewhat to 3% in 1999 from the current 1.5%.

David Harris

## National Infrastructure Ministry:

# Israel trying to purchase LNG supply

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel is currently negotiating with an Australian and a Nigerian company for the purchase of liquefied natural gas (LNG), National Infrastructure Ministry deputy director-general Eli Ronen told MKs yesterday, according to those attending the meeting.

The eventual aim is for 64-70 percent of Israel's gas demand to be met by LNG, with the remainder being imported via a pipeline from Egypt, said Avraham Ravitz, chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee, after his panel heard from Ronen.

The LNG supply will be used to power Israel Electric Corporation generators, while the natural gas will be used by other industries. Eventually, gas is expected to supply as much as half of all Israel's energy needs, enabling the country to use far less environmentally unfriendly coal.

At present, talks with Egypt are frozen as a result of the deadlocked peace negotiations, but Ronen told the MKs that a pipeline from the Sinai peninsula will clearly be the most viable option once negotiations reopen.

However, until then, Israel will continue to look for at least one

supplier of LNG. Senior industry sources have expressed concern about Israel buying LNG from Nigeria. Given the country's strong links to the Arab world and its Muslim majority, the sources fear Nigeria may be pressured into refusing to supply LNG.

Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) is currently leading the negotiations with a variety of companies for the purchase of LNG, given that it will be the sole consumer.

However, following yesterday's meeting, the Labor Party's senior economics spokesman, Avraham Shohat, expressed doubt that IEC

and the government will be able to stand by its self-imposed timetable. A decision on the choice of Israel's future energy supply has to be made by the end of the year. If Israel feels it cannot be guaranteed an obvious source for natural gas, an additional coal-fired power station will have to be built alongside the coast. If gas is chosen, it would have to be on tap before 2002.

"I'm very pessimistic about the timetable," said Shohat. "First and foremost while there were negotiations with Egypt two or three years ago, these have come to an end and now they're searching all over the world for a supplier."

Ronen denied Shohat's claim that the timetable is in jeopardy. The ministry said yesterday it "is using all possible means to accelerate the processes for the import of gas as early as possible, despite the many difficulties. The ministry sees itself as responsible for Israel's gas supply but only if a credible, continuous supply is found [by IEC]," it said.

If Israel chooses gas, an LNG regasification plant will have to be constructed two kilometers offshore at a cost of \$300 - \$400 million. In all probability the rig would stand opposite Haifa or Ashdod.



### Russian stock exchange

A trader at the Moscow stock exchange speaks by phone as others look on in Moscow, yesterday. The Russian government issued one-week treasury bills yesterday in an attempt to refill its drained coffers and stabilize its turbulent financial markets. (AP)

## Despite efficiency steps: Most banks increase '97 wage spending

Jerusalem Post Staff

A report to be published next week by the Bank of Israel will show that during 1997 most banks increased spending on wages and other manpower expenditures.

The annual report of the Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles will point to a 3.5 percent increase in such expenses to NIS 11.1 billion. This is, however, lower than

the 4.5% increase registered in 1996.

The increase comes despite the banks' efforts to economize, particularly with privatization in the air. Abeles' report will mention the desire of banks to offer early retirement incentives in order to cut costs.

"We can see no real improvement in this area," Abeles writes.

The report also examines the banks' operative income. Here there was a NIS 408 million increase to NIS 5.7b. Abeles says this rise is explained by the banks offering more services, particularly in the high-tech field.

Revenues also rose because of increases in banking fees and commissions, which frozen in some commercial banks during 1996. Furthermore, the banks benefited from the general increased activity on the stock exchange.

## Average wage rises to NIS 5,765 in 1st qtr

By DAVID HARRIS

Despite the slowdown in the economy, the average wage increased three percent in real terms to NIS 5,765 during the first quarter, in comparison to the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday. The figure takes into account legally employed foreign workers, but not those from the territories and South Lebanon.

The figures do not take into account the 8.4% increase in the minimum wage to NIS 2,609.18, which came into effect in April. This increase may lead to an even larger growth in the average wage when the figures are produced for the second quarter.

The average wage increased at a similar rate to that seen in the last three months of 1997 (a monthly 0.3%) but higher than that witnessed in the previous nine months (0.2%).

The Treasury and Bank of Israel have repeatedly urged for pay

restraint, particularly in the public sector, in order to keep public expenditure down and to prevent the fuelling of inflation.

Within the figures, the largest jumps in the average wage were seen in the food and hotel sector (7.1%), industry (6.6%), the service sector (5.5%), agriculture (4.7%), and construction (3.6%).

In the health and welfare sectors gross pay slipped 2%, while the smallest increases were made in education (0.6%), banking, finance and insurance (1.4%), and in public administration (2.1%).

The average wage remains highest in the electricity and water industries at NIS 12,606, with the lowest average recorded in the food and hotel industries at NIS 3,181, followed by agriculture with NIS 3,423.

Responding to the figures, the Israel Electric Corporation said one must realize that its employees also work the greatest number of hours on average.

## FDA approves Myriad's bone density device

By JUDY SIEGEL

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Rehovot-based Myriad Ultrasound Systems' pre-market application for its SoundScan Compact and SoundScan 2000 bone sonometers.

The devices use quantitative ultrasound to detect subtle changes in bone quality and are used to diagnose osteoporosis and other bone diseases.

"Myriad Ultrasound's innovative technology enables the SoundScan to measure speed of sound along a fixed longitudinal distance exclusively within the bone," said Alex Rapoport, the company's president and CEO.

"SoundScan is only the second bone sonometer system to gain FDA approval, and the SoundScan Compact will be the smallest and lightest bone sonometer on the US market. It's also a wireless system and uses standard ultrasound gel."

"The SoundScan does not expose patients to ionizing radiation and eliminates the need for operation by a licensed x-ray technician in a hospital setting."

"Also, because it's a lightweight and portable system, it can be easily operated by physicians in small clinics and private offices," said Barry Wysogrod, Myriad's vice president for strategic programs.

International studies on over 5,300 women found the SoundScan to be exceedingly precise with similar clinical efficacy to current bone densitometry techniques.

In addition to extensive clinical experience internationally for over four years, nearly 70 scientific publications have documented the clinical performance of the SoundScan.

Many women's health practitioners have noted the benefits that the SoundScan provides.

It measures the speed of sound along the tibia, which stretches between the knee and the ankle. Such measurements provide an index of bonestrength, with stronger bone having higher velocities.

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## Survey: Many visit porn web sites at work

By AMIE PICCH

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (Bloomberg) - A new study of workplace Internet use found workers visited sexually oriented web sites at 62 percent of employers surveyed, even though many

of the employers had policies prohibiting such use.

The study by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Elron Software also found 27% of the employers had disciplined workers for inappropriate Internet use.

Elron Software is a unit of Elron Electronic Industries Ltd., a Haifa-based company involved in imaging, defense electronics, semiconductors, and networking services.

Elron, which makes software that tracks web sites that employees

visit, polled 110 companies, educational institutions, and government agencies that tested its product.

The study highlights a rising concern among employers as more get connected to the Internet, giving employees access to everything from pornography to online gambling. If a worker visits a sexually oriented site in a co-worker's presence, analysts said, it could expose the employer to a sexual-harassment lawsuit.

"It's like hanging a 'girlie' calendar in your office. That should-

n't be happening," said Kate Delhagen, an analyst with Forester Research Inc., a firm that assesses technology's effects on its clients' businesses.

Delhagen said Elron's study may overstate the prevalence of inappropriate Web use. The surveyed companies might have been willing to test Elron's software specifically because they were encountering such problems with employees, she said.

"The study is making it seem like a larger issue," Delhagen said. "Our experience is that people do surf the Net at work, and a small slice visit adult or gambling sites."

The employers in the study had workforces numbering from 50 to 15,000. Half had an Internet-usage policy that spelled out what types of sites are acceptable to visit during work hours.

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**Ministry of Finance**

Accountant General's Office

Tender No. 98/3/D.A.

Shipment of Grains in American Flag Vessels

In connection with the need to meet the Government's undertaking regarding the carriage of goods in American Flag Vessels, the Accountant General invites relevant proposals, which should give rates for shipment of grain from the United States to Israel, in American Flag Vessels for the period between June 10, 1998 and September 30, 1998.

Proposals should be submitted to the Ministry of Finance by June 9, 1998 (9 a.m.).

Details are available with Mr. Yitzhak Klein or Mr. Tomer Shenhar, Department of Accountant General, Ministry of Finance, 1 Kaplan Street, Jerusalem, Room 533. Tel: 02-5317457, 02-5317649.

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## Tel Aviv

Stocks rose for a second day, led by Israel Chemicals Ltd. after the government said it plans to sell its one-third holding in the chemical company.

Israel Chemicals jumped 5.2 percent to NIS 5.04, an all-time high. That helped the Maof index of 25 largest companies to gain 1.42% to 348.80.

A Knesset committee yesterday approved the sale of the government's stake in Israel Chemicals through the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The government had been expected to sell the stake in a private sale that would have given Israel Corp., which currently controls Israel Chemicals with a 42% stake, the first option to buy the shares, analysts said.

"There's going to be more free-floating shares on the market, making it easier [for an investor] to gain a foothold" to reach the 7% stake necessary to appoint a company director, said Martin Geifman, an analyst at Zaxxon Securities.

Israel Corp. also may be purchasing shares in an effort to raise its stake to 50% and ensure its control of the company, he said.

Geifman, who has a "neutral" rating on the company and described the rise as exaggerated, said it is unlikely another investor will be able to challenge Israel Corp. for control of Israel Chemicals through buying shares on the open market.

Israel Discount Bank Ltd. gained 4.1% to NIS 4.57, after the Finance Ministry said it wants to sell a controlling stake to an investor group by the end of the year. The government, which owns 60% of Discount Bank, will offer a controlling stake of as much as 53% to potential major buyers and then offer part of its remaining shares to bank employees, the Finance Ministry said.

The government also said it continues to look for potential investors to purchase control of Bank Leumi, which gained 1.3% to 7.59.

Elbit Systems Ltd. advanced 2.4% to 51.2 shekels. The defense contractor was upgraded to "strong buy" from "buy" at Solid Financial Markets.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index dropped 207.45 points, or 1.33%, to 15,347. The

## Asia

Japanese stocks fell for the third time in four days as investors saw no end in sight to Asia's instability and Japan's economic stagnation. Banks such as Sumitomo Bank Ltd. paced the fall.

"We are in recession - Asia's in recession, Japan's in recession," said Shabreza Yusuf, investment manager at Aberdeen Asset Management Asia in Singapore. "And the government has been completely non-obliging in coming up with solid, creative ideas for getting out of this economic hole."

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broader Topix index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange slipped 7.64 points, or 0.63%, to 1,205.33.

Nikkei 225 index futures traded in Osaka fell 100 points to 15,310; those traded in Singapore dropped 130 to 15,330.

An estimated 358 million shares traded on the first section, falling below the six-month daily average of 453 million shares for 39 of the past 40 trading days. Losers outpaced winners by 771 to 308.

Banks slipped on concern Asia's economic woes will amplify Japanese banks' problem loans.

News that international creditor banks meeting in Germany may reach an agreement with Indonesian companies as soon as tomorrow on rescheduling \$80 billion in private foreign currency

debts failed to convince the market. About \$23 billion of that is owed to Japanese banks.

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks slid into the close yesterday, once again failing to sustain an early advance as the market remained handcuffed by worries about company profits.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 87.44 points - or 1 percent - to 8,803.80, turning lower late in the session for the second straight day.

Broader stock indexes also surrendered early gains and then fell sharply over the final 90 minutes. Without any major developments to clarify the uncertain outlook on company profits, analysts say it's unlikely the market will break out of its two-month rut any time soon.

While demand for stocks has remained strong enough to interrupt any steep slide, the market also has been unable to build much momentum amid mounting worries over how much the economic crisis in Asia is hurting US companies.

The Standard and Poor's 500 fell 10.29 to 1,082.74, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index fell 19.69 to 1,742.10.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 6-to-5 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,575 up, 1,327 down and 602 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 576.52 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 589.22 million in the previous session.

"We have decided as a matter of principle not to do this," Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov said as the ruble steadied and the Moscow stock market made big gains. "We do not expect any money from the West other than the IMF tranche."

Russia is counting on the IMF releasing the next \$670-million tranche of an existing \$9.2 billion credit later this month. (Bloomberg)

SPHERING OF BANCO DI SICILIA. "But even if they do, it would be a short-term solution. There's really no reason why the yen should be doing better. [The dollar] will break 140 yen soon."

The mark got a boost against major currencies on hopes Russia will soon pull out of the financial malaise that forced the central bank to triple its benchmark interest rate to 150% and sent its stock market and currency into a tailspin.

"Some are feeling that the Russian situation is stabilizing," said Rothschild's Barman. That's making some people reverse their flight into the dollar and Swiss franc as a safe haven, he said.

In a sale of one-week Treasury bills, Russia raised 5.83 billion rubles, a sign the country is on its way to raising enough cash to pay back debt due to mature soon. (Bloomberg)

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## Dollar weakens on G-8 speculation

The dollar fell against the yen for a second day amid speculation major industrialized nations may take action to restore investor confidence in Asia by bolstering the Japanese currency.

Finance officials from the Group of Seven nations meet in Paris next week on ways to help Russia out of its financial crisis, though officials of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party said they may also discuss boosting the yen, which is down more than 15 percent in the last year.

"The dollar's decline reflects concern that G-8 deputies will attempt to address yen weakness in a meaningful way," said Tom Barman, director of currencies at Rothschild Asset Management.

The dollar fell to 138.15 yen from 138.75 yen yesterday in New York. It also declined to 1.7716 marks from 1.7807 marks.

Germany's currency gained as Russian stocks rallied for a second day and Russia raised about 70% of the 8.4 billion rubles (\$1.36 billion) it needs to pay back maturing debt. That fueled optimism the country's financial crisis is easing.

Russia's RTS stock index soared 9.3% yesterday and more than 12% on Tuesday.

"Russia is doing better. The stock market is recovering and there have been successful debt issues," said Elena Sperling, chief currency trader at Banco di Sicilia.

"Things are on the mend, although I wouldn't say all the problems are over."

Russian stocks are still down more than 45% this year. US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin yesterday declined to respond when asked if the US wanted to discuss the falling yen at the G-8 meeting in Paris.

Even though the focus will be more Russia than Japan, there's concern there could be concerted intervention around the corner," said Uwe Fuehrer, head of currency sales at Credit Agricole Indosuez. "The dollar selling has been aggressive and fierce."

In Tokyo yesterday, Japanese

three-month delivery rose \$130 to \$5,960 a ton on the London Metal Exchange.

Energy

Crude oil fell after a key industry report showed a rise in demand for gasoline during the first week of the US driving season, hasn't been sufficient to thin bulging inventories. The oil industry was counting on robust gasoline demand in the US - the world's largest energy consuming nation - to soak up surplus raw material crude oil supplies, which have pulled oil prices

down 13% so far this year. Crude oil for July delivery trading on London's International Petroleum Exchange fell 23 cents to \$13.91 a barrel

Others

Cocoa fell on expectations that heavy rainfall in the Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, will boost the development of the 1998-99 crop. Cocoa for July delivery fell \$12 to 1,083 pounds a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange. (Bloomberg)

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## Precious metals

Platinum tumbled to a five-month low as Russia was seen resuming exports at a time when demand for platinum jewelry is set to drop in Asia. Platinum's decline follows a plunge in palladium, which has fallen by a third in two weeks amid speculation that Russia, the world's largest palladium producer and second largest platinum producer, has started to sell palladium for the first time this year. Spot platinum fell \$7.50 to \$357.50 an ounce. Spot palladium fell \$2 to \$257 an ounce.

Base metals rose, led by aluminum and copper, on rising European demand. France's first quarter GDP is expected to have grown 0.8 percent in 1998, according to a Bloomberg survey. Holland also reported a 1.2% increase in first quarter GDP. Copper for three-month delivery rose \$22 to \$1.684 a ton on the London Metal Exchange. Aluminum for three-month delivery rose \$14 to \$1.361 a metric ton on LME.

Tin rose as stockpiles of the metal fell 75 tons to 5,200 tons in LME-registered warehouses. Tin stockpiles fell as years of stagnant prices and slow demand growth in

## COMMODITIES

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# Martinez ties Marichal as winningest Latin pitcher

MILWAUKEE (AP, Reuters) — Dennis Martinez tied Juan Marichal as the winningest Latin American pitcher in baseball history Tuesday night, scattering 12 hits in a shutout as the Atlanta Braves defeated the Milwaukee Brewers 9-0.

Andrés Galarraga homered twice and Andruw Jones homered and hit two triples for Atlanta. With both teams wearing baggy replica uniforms from the 1950s, the 43-year-old Martinez (2-2) got his 243rd victory by going the distance for the first time since May 26, 1996. The right-hander walked one and struck out three in his 30th career shutout and 122nd complete game.

On two occasions earlier this season, Martinez, who is from Nicaragua, was within a few outs of tying Marichal's mark only to have the Braves' bullpen blow victories. He wasn't going to come out of this one, however, even when the Brewers got a runner to third in the ninth.

After getting pinch-hitter Bobby Hughes to ground to short for the final out, Martinez shared hugs and handshakes with teammates. In a 22-year career with Baltimore, Montreal, Cleveland, Seattle and Atlanta, Martinez has a 243-189 record. The four-time All-Star pitched a perfect game for the Expos in 1991 against Los Angeles.

Marichal, a native of the Dominican Republic, posted a 243-142 record in 16 seasons from 1960-1975, winning 238 games during 14 years with San Francisco.

Paul Wagner (1-4) took the loss. **Expos 4, Phillies 3** — Carl Pavano pitched 7 1/3 strong innings to get his first major-league win as Montreal snapped a three-game losing streak with an away win.

Pavano (1-0), a highly-touted right-hander obtained by Montreal in the trade that sent Pedro Martinez to Boston in November, allowed three runs and four hits in only his third major-league start. The Phillies stranded the tying run on third in the ninth.

Curt Schilling (5-6) lost his third straight decision.

**Pirates 5, Mets 2** — Kevin Young hit a tiebreaking three-run triple to finally make

Chris Peters a winner over the Mets, and Pittsburgh overcame an evening of violent weather to win at home.

The Pirates have won a season-high four straight. Peters (1-3) allowed two runs on four hits over five innings to end a career-long five-game losing streak against the Mets.

**Cubs 2, Marlins 1** — Pinch-hitter Jason Hardtke singled home the winning run in the bottom of the ninth as Florida dropped its seventh straight.

Mickey Morandini reached on an infield single off Felix Heredia (0-3) with one out and advanced on a balk. Sammy Sosa then hit a ball between Heredia's legs for an infield hit, and Mark Grace was walked intentionally to load the bases.

Jay Powell relieved and Hardtke, batting for Terrell Lowery, hit a soft fly ball into the gap left center, giving Chicago its fifth consecutive victory.

**Diamondbacks 9, Rockies 3** — David Dellucci went 4-for-4 and had three RBIs, and Matt Williams and Karim Garcia each homered as visiting Arizona drubbed Colorado.

Brian Anderson (3-6) went six innings, limiting Colorado to three runs on five hits, including homers by Neifi Perez and Vinny Castilla. Anderson's win dropped Colorado's record against left-handed starters to 3-14 this season.

**Cardinals 7, Dodgers 4** — Brian Jordan hit a two-out, three-run homer off reliever Jim Bruske in the top of the eighth inning.

The Cardinals, who snapped a three-game losing streak, played without slugger Mark McGwire, who leads the majors with 27 home runs.

McGwire is expected to sit out the three-game series at Dodger Stadium because of lower back spasms he suffered Monday night in San Diego.

Willie McGee, pinch hitting for winning pitcher Kent Mercker, started the winning rally with a one-out single off loser Darren Dreifort. After Ron Gant struck out, Delino DeShields drew a walk, prompting Dodgers manager Bill Russell to make a pitching change.

Jordan then hit a 1-1 pitch into

the left-field seats for his ninth homer, giving the Cardinals seven straight runs.

**Giants 4, Reds 2** — Darryl Hamilton hit his first homer of the season and Danny Darwin pitched 6 1/3 strong innings as host San Francisco won its fifth straight game.

**Astros 4, Padres 3** — Tony Eusebio hit a two-run single in the seventh inning when Padres relievers were hurt by walks, and Houston rallied for a road win.

**AMERICAN LEAGUE** — Angels 7, Royals 5

American League president Gene Budig went to watch the host Royals and Angels play baseball and a hockey game broke out in the bullpen to join the fray.

Angels catcher Phil Nevin charged the mound in the seventh after he was hit by a pitch from Jim Pittsley for the second time in the game, sparking the first brawl that led to ejections of Nevin, Pittsley and Royals coaches Jamie Quirk and Rich Dauer.

**MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS** — **AMERICAN LEAGUE** — Batting: Rodriguez, Texas, .378; Walker, Minnesota, .365; Segui, Seattle, .346; Williams, New York, .343; Brosius, New York, .331; Dwyer, New York, .325; Easley, Detroit, .325; Stairs, Oakland, .323.

**Runs** — Dwyer, New York, 52; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 51; Griener, Oakland, 48; Rodriguez, Seattle, 46; Durham, Chicago, 45; Lott, Cleveland, 43; Thome, Cleveland, 43; Knoblauch, New York, 43.

**Home Runs** — Rodriguez, Texas, 77; McCracken, Tampa Bay, 74; Dwyer, New York, 74; Rodriguez, Seattle, 73; Erstad, Anaheim, 72; Segui, Seattle, 71; McGonzalez, Texas, 71.

**Stolen Bases** — Gooden, Texas, 22; Henderson, Oakland, 22; Canseco, Toronto, 17; B Hunter, Detroit, 16; Lott, Cleveland, 16; Knoblauch, New York, 15; Stewart, Toronto, 14; Dwyer, New York, 14.

**Pitching** — (7 Decisions) — Wells, New York, 8-1, .889, 4.25; Cone, New York, 7-1, .875, 5.59; Martinez, Texas, 6-1, .857, 2.83; Helling, Texas, 7-2, .778, 4.73; Nagy, Cleveland, 7-2, .778, 5.71; Williams, Toronto, 6-2, .750, 2.60; Wakefield, Boston, 6-2, .750, 4.57; Rogers, Oakland, 6-2, .750, 3.76.

**Strikeouts** — Martinez, Texas, 102; Johnson, Seattle, 100; Cfrinay, Anaheim, 88; Colon, Cleveland, 70; Dwyer, New York, 69; Clemens, Toronto, 69; Erickson, Baltimore, 68.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE** — Batting — O'Leary, New York, .370; B Jordan, St. Louis, .367; Gwynn, San Diego, .361; Taubensee, Cincinnati, .356; Alou, Houston, .349; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .344; Sosa, Chicago, .343.

**Runs** — Chones, Atlanta, 50; Galarraga, Atlanta, 50; Biggio, Houston, 49; Gilman, Philadelphia, 46; McGwire, St. Louis, 45; Walker, Colorado, 44; Mueller, San Francisco, 42.

**Home Runs** — McGwire, St. Louis, 68; Castilla, Colorado, 56; Galarraga, Atlanta, 55; Alou, Houston, 49; Chones, Atlanta, 48; Bonds, San Francisco, 46; Brogna, Philadelphia, 45; Vaughn, San Diego, 45.

**Home Runs** — Chones, Atlanta, 78; Gilman, Philadelphia, 75; McGwire, Houston, 74; Sosa, Chicago, 73; Galarraga, Atlanta, 71; Dwyer, Cincinnati, 70; Biggio, Houston, 70; Gwynn, San Diego, 70.

**Stolen Bases** — Ewing, Los Angeles, 22; Womack, Pittsburgh, 20; Biggio, Houston, 20; Renteria, Florida, 18; Snyers, Cincinnati, 14; DeShields, St. Louis, 13.

**Pitching** — (7 Decisions) — Schmidt, Pittsburgh, 8-1, .889, 3.59; Trachsel, Chicago, 6-1, .857, 3.37; Gmadux, Atlanta, 6-2, .800, 1.85; Midway, Atlanta, 7-2, .778, 3.93; Hampton, Houston, 7-2, .778, 2.52; Neagle, Atlanta, 7-2, .778, 3.01; Glavine, Atlanta, 7-2, .778, 2.16.

**Strikeouts** — Schilling, Philadelphia, 125; Stottlemyre, St. Louis, 83; Wood, Chicago, 83; Ramirez, Los Angeles, 74; Nomo, Los Angeles, 73; Reynolds, Houston, 73; K Brown, San Diego, 73.

by numerous beanballs, two ugly bench-clearing brawls and 12 ejections.

Salmon and Cecil Fielder had two RBIs apiece for the Angels, who made a winner of Jarrod Washburn in his major-league debut — a performance overshadowed by behaviour sure to bring a plethora of fines and suspensions.

"It was a pretty good hockey game," joked Royals manager Tony Muser.

The teams came to blows in the seventh and ninth innings with players coming all the way from the bullpen to join the fray.

Angels catcher Phil Nevin charged the mound in the seventh after he was hit by a pitch from Jim Pittsley for the second time in the game, sparking the first brawl that led to ejections of Nevin, Pittsley and Royals coaches Jamie Quirk and Rich Dauer.

**Twins 10, Athletics 3** — Dan Serafini won in his first appearance of the season, and Otis Nixon and Brent Gates had four hits each to lead Minnesota to a home win.

**Orioles 9, Mariners 8** — Rafael Palmeiro belted a two-run homer off Bobby Ayala in the bottom of the 10th inning for his

second consecutive game-winning homer against Seattle. Ken Griffey's second home run of the game, and 21st of the season, off Norm Charlton in the top of the 10th had put Seattle in front 8-7. Alex Rodriguez also belted his 21st homer in the first inning for the Mariners.

In addition to Palmeiro's game-winning blast, the Orioles got homers from Cal Ripken, BJ Surhoff and Brady Anderson.

**Red Sox 11, Blue Jays 3** — Nomar Garciaparra and Darren Bragg each belted three-run homers to lead Boston to a thumping of host Toronto.

Steve Avery (2-1), who was back on the Boston roster from a demotion to Triple-A Pawtucket after nine relief appearances this year, picked up a rare victory.

**Yankees 6, White Sox 3** — David Wells notched his eighth straight win and Derek Jeter blast-

ed a three-run homer as New York rallied for a home victory.

Wells (8-1), who pitched a perfect game last month, allowed three runs and seven hits over eight innings with a walk and eight strikeouts.

Paul O'Neill extended his hitting streak to 10 games with a two-out homer in the first for New York. Albert Belle homered twice for the White Sox.

**Indians 8, Tigers 3** — Dave Burba allowed three runs over seven innings for his fourth straight victory and David Justice had four hits and scored twice to lead Cleveland to a road victory.

**Rangers 7, Devil Rays 3** — Luis Alica and Will Clark homered, and Bobby Witt won for the first time in three weeks for Texas at Tampa Bay.

Alica finished a six-run second inning with a three-run homer off Jason Johnson (2-3).

**Major League Standings**

**National League**

**East Division**

**Central Division**

**West Division**

**American League**

**East Division**

**Central Division**

**West Division**

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## CRITICS' CHOICE

## ISRAEL FESTIVAL

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Gil Shohat's new opus, *Song of Songs*, premieres tonight (8:30) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall) with the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra under the baton of music director Yuval Zaliouk. The soloists are soprano Sharon Rostorf and tenor Claudio di Segni, as well as the Rheinische Kantorei.

Members of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra present a tribute to Israeli composer Noam Sheriff Saturday morning (11 a.m.) at the Targ Center in Ein Kerem.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

You can still hear Daniel Oren lead the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Verdi's rarely performed operatic masterpiece *Simon Boccanegra* tonight, next Monday and Wednesday at the Mann auditorium in Tel Aviv (8:30).

British countertenor James Bowman presents a program of 17th- and 18th-century English songs tonight (8:30) in Karmiel and Friday (9) at Beit Heseid in Haifa. On Saturday (9) at the Tel Aviv Museum, Bowman sings music by Handel and Haydn with the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra conducted by David Shemer.

Aviv Ron leads his Ramat Gan Chamber Orchestra in a classical/jazz end-of-season concert featuring the premiere of Yevgeni Levitas' *Beautiful Day*, a concerto for trumpet with the composer as soloist, as well as music of Gershwin, Ellington, Porter and others. Saturday (9) at the Ramat Gan Theater.

The Herzliya Chamber Orchestra concludes its season with Ultra Violins, in which music director Harvey Bordowitz leads the orchestra in the violin concerti of Mendelssohn (soloist: Robert Canetti) and Beethoven (Menahem Breuer), as well as Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* (Helen Lindenberg). Saturday in Bitan Aharon near Netanya (9:15) and next Monday at the Daniel Hotel in Herzliya (8:30).

## ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Ten couples form the circle of Arthur Schnitzler's perdurable *La Ronde*, that never-ending cycle of love, intrigues, betrayals, flirt-



British countertenor James Bowman presents a program of 17th- and 18th-century English songs tonight in Karmiel.

ing — a whole fascinating tapestry of human relationships. The Haifa English Theater production is directed by Murray Rosovsky. At the Haifa Museum tonight at 8:30 and on Saturday at 9 p.m. Tickets: 04-8523255.

## DEBATE

HELEN KAYE

Should Israelis listen to Wagner or not? Is it time to end the boycott of one of the music world's most important and influential composers? The New Israeli Opera is having a debate entitled *Wagner: Artist or Symbol?* with NBO music director Asher Fisch, Shlomo Avineri, Tommy Lapid, Zaiman Shoval and Ora Binur on the panel. At the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on Saturday at 11 a.m. (Hebrew). The general public is invited to call Telemerser 03-7653530 to offer their opinions.

## TV

## CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News Flash  
6:31 News in Arabic  
6:45 Good Morning Israel

## EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Jewish Sciences  
8:00 Crossroad Café  
8:00 Reading  
9:25 English  
9:40 Nature

10:00 Programs for the very young  
11:00 Geography  
12:00 Social Science  
12:00 History  
13:30 Animation  
15:05 Secret Matters

## CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Elie and Lily  
15:35 Y Men  
16:00 Bydler Grove  
16:30 The Prince and the Pauper  
17:00 New Evening  
17:34 Clit  
18:15 News in English

## ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Encounter  
19:00 News

## HEBREW PROGRAMS

18:30 News Flash  
18:31 Local Hits  
18:35 "Tamed in the Street"

20:00 News  
20:45 Press  
20:57 Y Men  
21:30 Stardust  
21:35 Memories — see today's highlights

22:00 Where Were We? — with Amir  
22:30 News  
00:00 Time For Language

## CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs  
5:55 On the Edge of the Shell

6:00 Animation  
6:30 The Rainbow Children  
8:00 Rivka Michael  
8:07 Rich Man, Poor Man

10:50 Dynasty  
11:40 French Atlantic  
11:45 Ganie and the Captain

13:00 My Secret Identity  
13:30 Eli & Jules  
14:00 Home and Away  
14:30 Tick Tack  
15:00 Major Dad  
15:27 Roseanne  
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful

16:50 Different  
17:00 Five with Rachel  
17:30 The Raz  
18:00 The World's Dumbest Criminals

18:05 Jenny  
18:30 Spin City  
19:01 Bully The Vampire Slayer  
20:00 News  
20:30 News

21:00 Only in Israel  
22:00 Fifth Evening  
22:50 Good Old Boys  
made for TV movie with Tommy Lee Jones

00:00 News  
00:10 Good Old Boys  
— cont.

1:15 Screen Test  
2:10 Story Tellers  
Festival  
2:58 Guitar Festival  
3:47 On the Edge of the Shell

JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)  
14:00 Holy Koran  
14:30 The Prince and the Pauper  
14:45 Energy

17:30 The Other Half  
18:00 Trivia Game (pt)  
18:30 Local  
Broadcast  
19:00 The Young and the Restless  
19:30 The Young and the Restless  
19:40 Beverly Hills  
20:25 Hercules  
21:00 Xena, the Warrior Princess  
22:00 Mad About You

22:30 Seinfeld  
23:00 Rick Lake  
23:45 Law and Order  
00:30 Babylon 5  
1:20 Love Boat  
1:25 The X-Files  
3:00 The Commish

11:30 Her Last Chance (1996) — an added wrong accused of murder  
12:05 The Master Race (1944) — war movie about the final days of the Nazi regime. With George C. Scott, Stanley Kubrick and Lloyd Bridges  
14:00 Museum of Love (1996) — short film about a young man deserted by his girlfriend  
15:20 Seeing Stars: Antonio Banderas  
15:50 Princess in Love (1996) — all the gossip about Princess Diana and her affair with Captain James Hewitt  
17:25 What Kind of Mother Are You? (1996) — a teenager caught shoplifting spends the night in jail as a lesson. The next morning she is released

19:00 The Vulture (Hebrew, 1989) — a drama based on a novel by Yoram Kaniuk. A soldier comes home from the Vietnam War with stories of heroism. With Shraga Harpaz, Shimon Finkel and Nir Shtei

20:30 Seeing Stars: Sylvester Stallone and Sandra Bullock  
21:00 Silent Fall (1994) — an autistic boy is the only witness to his parents' bloody murder. With Richard Dreyfuss, Linda Hamilton and John Lithgow  
22:50 Intersection (1994) — another remake of the French film *Les Choses de la Vie*. A wealthy architect dies after an accident and experiences flashbacks of his relationship with his wife  
23:00 News  
23:30 News

5:00 Celeste  
5:00 One Life to Live  
5:15 The Young and the Restless  
5:30 Days of Our Lives  
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